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NEWSROOM

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

E-NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

July 19, 2012

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## Beach water advisories issued for Lido Beach, Turtle Beach and North Jetty Beach

Beach water advisories have been issued for Lido, Turtle and North Jetty beaches. Sarasota County Health Department officials received testing results from beach water samples taken Wednesday, July 18, that show an elevated level of enterococci (enteric) bacteria.

Signs advising the public not to swim or engage in water recreation at Lido, Turtle and North Jetty beaches will be posted until follow-up water testing results meet the Environmental Protection Agency recreational water safety standards.

Other Sarasota County area areas that are **not** under a beach water advisory are Ringling Causeway, North and South Lido, Longboat Key, Siesta, Nokomis, Brohard Park, Blind Pass, Manasota Key, Caspersen, Venice Fishing Pier, Service Club and Venice public beaches.

The Health Department plans to conduct follow-up water sampling Friday, July 20, with results expected in the afternoon on Saturday, July 21.

"We never like to issue advisories and are sensitive to their impact on the community," says Tom Higginbotham, Sarasota County Health Department's Environmental Health Administrator. "However, the intent of the Florida Healthy Beaches program is to provide residents and visitors with accurate, up-to-date information about the water quality at our 16 area beaches. Enteric bacteria can come from stormwater runoff, pet waste and wildlife and human sewage. High concentrations of these bacteria can cause gastrointestinal illnesses, infections or rashes if ingested while swimming or after entering the skin through a cut or sore."

Residents and visitors may still use the Lido Casino, Turtle Beach and North Jetty beaches, but are urged not to wade or swim in the water or engage in water recreation until the advisory is lifted. Health officials say that shellfish collected in the immediate area of Lido, Turtle and North Jetty beaches, or from any beach water that has a brown tint, should not be consumed. It is safe to fish and consume fin-fish from these waters.

Residents and visitors can visit [www.OurGulfEnvironment.net](http://www.OurGulfEnvironment.net) and click on water monitoring and then bacterial testing to check beach water testing results of area Gulf beaches, or call the Sarasota County Health Department Environmental Health office at 941-861-6133.

**MEDIA NOTE:** A news release will be issued when the advisory is lifted.