

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WALTON COUNTY WEEKLY BEACH SAMPLING RESULTS
Walton County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results

Walton County - The Walton County Health Department conducts regularly scheduled saltwater beach water quality monitoring at seven sites through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. **Samples are collected from March through the end of October. This will be our last sampling for this year. We will resume sampling in March.** The water samples are being analyzed for enteric bacteria (enterococci) that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals, which may cause human disease, infections, or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant coastal beach water quality problems and whether future beach monitoring efforts are necessary.

Site	Name	Enterococci	Water Quality
SP-1	Miramar Beach	4	Good
SP-3	Dune Allen Beach	16	Good
SP-4	Blue Mountain Beach	4	Good
SP-5	Grayton Beach	4	Good
SP-7	Holly Street Beach	4	Good
SP-8	Eastern Lake Beach	4	Good
SP-9	Inlet Beach Access	12	Good

Water quality classifications are based upon United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended criteria and Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories:

Good = 0 - 35 Enterococci per 100 ml of marine

Moderate = 36 - 104 Enterococci per 100 ml of marine water

Poor = greater than 105 Enterococci per 100 ml of marine water

If you should have any questions, please contact the Walton County Health Department of (850) 892-8021, or visit the Department of Health's internet Beach Water Quality website (www.doh.state.fl.us, click on "Floridians and Visitors" – under "Food, Water, Air, Land," choose "Beach Water Quality."

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