

The Health Department monitors 20 beaches in St. Clair County from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Waterbody

Location

Emmett KOA Lake – Emmett KOA	Emmett
Ruby Lake – Ruby Family Campground	Avoca
Kimball Pond – Kimball Township Park	Kimball
Fort Trodd Lake – Fort Trodd Campground	Wadhams
North & South	
Lake Huron – Burtchville Township Park	North Lakeport
Lake Huron – Jeddo Road Beach	North Lakeport
Lake Huron – Metcalf Road Beach	Burtchville
Lake Huron – Fort Gratiot County Park	Fort Gratiot
Lake Huron – Lakeport State Park	Lakeport
Lake Huron – Lakeport State Park Campground	Lakeport
Lake Huron – Washington Street Park	Lakeport
Lake Huron – Keewadhin Road Beach	Fort Gratiot
Lake Huron – Krafft Road Beach	Port Huron
Lake Huron – Lakeside Beach	Port Huron
Lake Huron – Holland Road Beach	Port Huron
Lake Huron – Conger-Lighthouse Beach	Port Huron
St. Clair River – Chrysler Park Beach	Marysville
St. Clair River – Marine City Beach	Marine City
St. Clair River – Marine City Diving Area	Marine City

Up to date information about beach conditions and closings is available 24 hours a day at the following locations:

St. Clair County Water Quality Hotline
(810) 987 – 7253
1 – 877 – 504 – SWIM

BeachGuard
www.deq.state.mi.us/beach

St. Clair County Health Department
 Division of Environmental Health
 3415 28th Street
 Port Huron, MI 48060

St. Clair County Public Bathing Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program

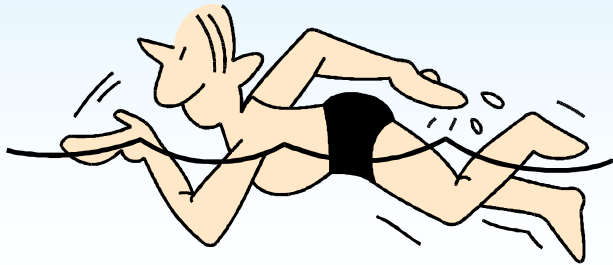


**St. Clair County
 Health Department**

Why are beaches monitored?

There is always a risk associated with using surface water for recreation. St. Clair County Health Department's Bathing Beach Program helps minimize that risk through the collection and analysis of water quality samples at our public beaches.

The St. Clair County Health Department monitors 20 public beaches throughout the county from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Samples are generally taken on a weekly basis, one foot below the surface in water that is between three and six feet deep.



Why does a beach close?

The Michigan Public Health Code authorizes local health departments to monitor and evaluate water quality at beaches to determine whether the water is safe for swimming. This Code also sets the Total Body Contact Standards that limit the levels of *E. coli* to 300 colonies per 100ml of water. A beach is closed whenever these standards are exceeded.

What is *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)?

E. coli is a common microbe found in the digestive tracts of warm blooded animals, including humans. The presence of *E. coli* serves as an indicator of potential bacterial contamination at our beaches.

Guidelines for closures

Three samples (left, center, right) are collected at each beach. A "geometric mean" is calculated from the results of these three samples. The geometric mean is used rather than a normal arithmetic average because it reduces the biasing effect of a single high reading. When the geometric mean exceeds 300 colonies of *E. coli* bacteria per 100ml of water, the beach is closed. Once the water quality levels at the beach no longer exceed the standard, the beach is re-opened.

What causes our beaches to close?

There are a variety of sources that transfer bacteria and other pathogens to our water. Beaches may close after a heavy rainfall because bacteria are washed into St. Clair County's ditches, creeks and streams which then drain to Lake Huron and the St. Clair River.

- Stormwater run-off
- Sanitary sewer overflows
- Failing or leaking septic systems
- Fecal matter from pets and wildlife
- Sediment and soil erosion
- Lawn fertilization near waterways
- Dumping of oil or grass clippings into waterways
- High wave action

Help reduce beach closings

- Do not feed ducks and geese on or near beaches.
- Monitor how your septic system is functioning. Septic tanks should be pumped once every three to five years.
- Promptly dispose of your pet's waste in the trash can or down the toilet where it will be properly treated.
- Properly dispose of household cleaners, paints and motor oil at St. Clair County Smiths Creek Landfill, (810) 985-2443.
- Keep fertilizer applications at least 20 feet away from the edge of rivers, streams or storm drains.
- Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings off sidewalks and driveways and back onto the lawn.
- Stabilize stream banks with plants native to Michigan which tolerate our climate, require less fertilizer, resist pests and help reduce soil erosion.
- Avoid dumping leaves into roadside ditches or streams. Mulch grass clippings or leaves into your lawn – a great fertilizer!
- Fence livestock to prevent access to streams.
- Take dirty vehicles to the car wash.

Consider this...

Where does water go after it leaves your property? Is there anything that could wash off your property that you wouldn't want in a stream or lake? How do people use the water once it leaves your property? We are all responsible for protecting the quality of our lakes and streams.