

NEWS RELEASE

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Post-Irma Beach Water Testing Update

GLYNN COUNTY, GA – Testing for elevated levels of enterococcus (pronounced: en-ter-o-coc-cus), bacteria which is found in warm blooded animals including humans but also birds, raccoons, deer, dolphins and other wildlife, resumed this week after testing was suspended due to Hurricane Irma. Beaches in Chatham and Glynn counties showed results that are within normal limits; therefore, advisories for these areas have been lifted. There is one exception: North Beach at Dexter Lane (from the old North picnic area to Brice Lane). Beach access was blocked in that area so no testing could be performed.

The following areas are only tested once a month and have not been tested since August:

- Skidaway Narrows (Butterbean Beach) in Chatham County
- Contentment Bluff Sandbar and Dallas Bluff Sandbar in McIntosh County
- Reimolds Pasture, Sea Island North, Sea Island South, and Blythe Island Sandbar in Glynn County.

Since no testing has been performed at North Beach at Dexter Lane on Jekyll Island or at any of the areas mentioned in bullet points above, The Coastal Health District recommends you do not swim or wade in the water in those areas. Fish and other seafood caught from those areas should be thoroughly washed with fresh water and thoroughly cooked before eating as should fish or seafood caught from any waters.

The areas will be retested and results will be shared once that happens. For more information about beach water testing, go to www.gachd.org and click on the Environmental Health tab at the top of the page.

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