

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Beach Advisories Issued for St. Simons/Jekyll Island Beaches**

**GLYNN COUNTY, GA** – The Glynn County Health Department has issued advisories for South Beach at the Lighthouse (9<sup>th</sup> Street to the pier), East Beach at the old Coast Guard station (Tenth St. East to Driftwood Drive), and Massengale Park Beach (Driftwood Drive to Cedar Street) on St. Simons Island, and Driftwood Beach (from beach kilometer marker 1 to Tallu Fish Lane) on Jekyll Island

These advisories are only for the area(s) specified above and do not impact any other beaches on the islands. There is no way of knowing if going into water that is under advisory will result in illness; however, these beach water advisories are to alert the public of a possible risk of illness associated with water contact. An area under advisory does not mean the beach is closed.

Water samples are tested only for 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. It is difficult to determine exactly where the bacteria come from but some sources could include animal waste, storm water runoff, or boating waste. When a beach is under advisory, it means that the level of bacteria found in the water is above the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended standards.

The Glynn County Health Department recommends you do not swim or wade in the water in the area(s) under advisory. Fish and other seafood caught from this area should be thoroughly washed with fresh water and thoroughly cooked before eating as should fish or seafood caught from any waters.

The area will be retested and the advisory will be lifted when tests show the bacteria levels meet the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended standards. For more information about beach water testing, go to [www.gachd.org](http://www.gachd.org) and click on the Environmental Health tab at the top of the page.

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