

NEWS RELEASE

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Beach Advisories Issued on Jekyll and St. Simons Islands

GLYNN COUNTY, GA – The Glynn County Health Department has issued beach water advisories for 2 locations on St. Simons Island, and 1 location on Jekyll Island. On St. Simons Island, advisories have been issued for the 5th Street Crossover Beach and South Beach at the Lighthouse. These 2 beach areas stretch from Cedar Street to the Pier. On Jekyll Island, the advisory is for Driftwood Beach, from beach kilometer marker 1 to Tallu Fish Lane. To see an interactive map of these and all the testing locations, go to GaHealthyBeaches.org.

These advisories are only for the areas specified and do not impact any other beach locations on these islands. There is no way of knowing if going into water that is under advisory will result in illness; however, the beach water advisories are meant 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 areas under advisory. Fish and other seafood caught from these 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 the advisories 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 and click on the Environmental Health tab at the top of the page.

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