

NEWS RELEASE
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Beach Advisory Issued on St. Simons Island

GLYNN COUNTY, GA – The Glynn County Health Department has issued a beach water advisory for South Beach at the lighthouse, which is from 9th Street to the pier on St. Simons Island.

The Department of Natural Resources - Coastal Resources Division tests water samples at Glynn County beaches throughout the year. The test screens for enterococcus (pronounced: en-ter-o-coc-cus) bacteria, which are found in humans and some wildlife. The testing program is not related to the capsized motor vehicle carrier in St. Simons Sound.

When a beach is under advisory, it means the level of bacteria found in the water is above the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended standards. Periodic advisories are not unusual, and sources of the bacteria could include animal waste, storm water runoff, or boating waste.

The advisory does NOT mean the beach is closed. Beach water advisories alert the public of a possible risk of illness associated with water contact in the advisory areas. The Health Department recommends you do not swim or wade in the water in the area under advisory. Fish and other seafood caught from the 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 re-tested this week, and the advisory will be lifted when the bacteria levels meet the EPA's recommended standards. For more information about beach water testing, go to GaCHD.org and click on the Environmental Health tab at the top of the page.

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