



Protecting and Advancing the Public's Health

W. Douglas Skelton, MD, District Health Director

Chatham County Health Department

1395 Eisenhower Drive (31406)  
Post Office Box 14257  
Savannah, GA 31416-1257

www.gachd.org  
Phone: 912-356-2441  
Fax: 912-356-2868

**NEWS RELEASE**

**April 13, 2011**

Contact: Sally Silbermann

**912.644.5217**

**Health Department Issues Advisory for Tybee Polk Street Beach**

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GA** – The Chatham County Health Department has placed Polk Street Beach on Tybee Island under advisory. The advisory area covers the northern most part of Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River from the end of the beach to the jetty. Routine water quality tests from samples taken April 12<sup>th</sup> show the beach water in this area contains a high level of enterococci bacteria, which increase the risk of gastrointestinal illness in swimmers.

The Chatham County Health Department recommends you do not swim or wade in the water in this area. Fish and other seafood caught from this area should be thoroughly washed with fresh water and thoroughly cooked before eating.

The Polk Street Beach on Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River will be retested and the advisory will be lifted when tests show the bacteria levels meet the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended standard.

###