

For Immediate Release:
 June 13, 2022

**GTCHD announces changes to beach monitoring reporting,
 introduces beach monitoring dashboard**

Each summer the Environmental Health Division of the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) works closely with local agencies to insure the health and safety of several public beaches throughout Grand Traverse County. Working collectively through partnerships and grants with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), surface water from swim areas at several local beaches are sampled and analyzed for E. coli each week. Results are interpreted by the GTCHD using a water quality index and shared with the community weekly on Thursdays. Beginning this year, only results that trigger a water quality index "Level 2" or higher, will be communicated through a press release. All results each week will continue to be posted online at: www.gtcouintymi.gov/814, which will now include an interactive dashboard that will launch on Thursday, June 16. The dashboard will not only share current levels, but serve as a tool for the community to make decisions on which beaches they choose to enjoy during the summer months.

Using the Water Quality Index below, monitoring will run from June 16 – September 8 and will include the following beaches:

Acme Bayside Park
 Bryant Park
 Clinch Park
 East Bay Park
 Haserot Beach
 Sayler Park
 Sunset Park
 TC Senior Center
 TC Volleyball Beach
 Traverse City State Park
 West End Beach

| <u>Water Quality Index</u> | <u>Body Contact Limits</u> | <u>E.coli/100ml</u> (Single Event) | <u>E.coli/100ml</u> (30 day geo-mean) |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Level 1 | E. coli levels meet MDEQ swimming standards for full body contact. | 0-300 | 0-130 |
| Level 2 | E. coli levels meet MDEQ standards for wading, fishing, and boating. Contact above the waist not advised. | 301-1000 | 131-1000 |
| Level 3 | E. coli levels exceed MDEQ standards, no body contact advised. | >1000 | >1000 |
| Level 4 | Health Alert. E. coli levels and/or known gross contamination of beach waters. Avoid contact with beach waters. | | |