

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.gtcountymi.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 (Single Event)</u>	<u>E.coli/100ml (30 day geo-mean)</u>
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.		