

For Immediate Release:
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Grand Traverse County Health Department Starts Beach Monitoring Reporting for the Summer

The Environmental Health Division of the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) will begin its weekly beach monitoring on June 14, and end on September 6. In partnership with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), GTCHD will sample surface water each week from swim areas at several local beaches to be analyzed for E. coli to ensure the health and safety of 11 public beaches in the county.

- 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

Beach testing results will be available midday on Thursdays and posted on the GTCHD website dashboard (<https://www.gtcountymi.gov/814/Public-Beach-Monitoring>) and on our Facebook page. Test results of “Level 2” or higher will be communicated through a press release and beaches will be retested again until results return to a safe level for contact above the waist.

“Beach monitoring provides a weekly snapshot to ensure that our waters are safe for those looking to enjoy the abundance of water recreation our area has to offer,” said Brent Wheat, Environmental Health Director.

<u>Water Quality Index</u>	<u>Body Contact Limits</u>	<u>E. coli/100m</u> (Single Event)	<u>E. coli/100ml</u> (30 day geo-mean)
Level 1	E. coli levels meet EGLE swimming standards for full body contact.	0-300	0-130
Level 2	E. coli levels meet EGLE standards for wading, fishing, and boating. Contact above the waist not advised.	301-1000	131-1000
Level 3	E. coli levels exceed EGLE 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.		

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