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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 19, 2025

**Public Health Advisory: No-Body Contact Recommendation for Portions of West Grand Traverse Bay and Connected Waterways**

**Issued:** August 19, 2025

**Issued by:** Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD)

On Monday, August 18, 2025, at approximately 8:30 p.m., an estimated 500 gallons of untreated raw sewage were accidentally released into Kids Creek through a stormwater drain outlet near the intersection of Cedar Street and Sixth Street in Traverse City. The discharge occurred during a construction project to repair an existing sewer main.

In response, and out of an abundance of caution, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) has issued a no-body contact advisory for surface waters in the following areas:

**Affected Areas:**

- **Kids Creek:** From the **6th Street bridge** to the **confluence with the Boardman River** near **Wadsworth Street**
- **Boardman/Ottaway River:** From **Wadsworth Street** to the **mouth of West Grand Traverse Bay**
- **Clinch Park Beach**
- **Sunset Park Beach**

**Advisory Details:**

Residents and visitors are strongly advised to avoid all body contact with water in the listed areas, including swimming, wading, and paddling, until further notice. Contact with untreated sewage-contaminated water may pose serious health risks, including gastrointestinal illness, skin irritation, and infections.

The advisory will remain in effect until water quality testing confirms that the affected waters meet Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) standards for safe recreational use. Water sampling is being conducted today, August 19, and results are expected to be available by August 20. EGLE has been contacted and is actively aware of the situation.

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## Health Alert - Grand Traverse County Beach Report

Samples collected August 19, Reported August 20

**GRAND TRAVERSE BAY**

<u>Beach</u>	<u>This week's sample results:</u> <u>E. coli count per 100ml</u>	<u>Water Quality Index</u>
Clinch Park	TBD	Level 4
Sunset Park	TBD	Level 4

<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 EGLE swimming standards for full body contact.	<b>0-300</b>	<b>0-130</b>
Level 2	E. coli levels meet EGLE standards for wading, fishing, and boating. Contact above the waist is not advised.	<b>301-1000</b>	<b>131-1000</b>
Level 3	E. coli levels exceed EGLE standards; no-body contact advised.	<b>&gt;1000</b>	<b>&gt;1000</b>
Level 4	Health Alert. E. coli levels and/or known gross contamination of beach waters. Avoid contact with beach waters.		

**Note:** Beach samples are routinely collected once a week. Therefore, E. coli levels may not meet the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) standards between sampling days. E. coli levels are more likely to increase after a storm.

**Note:** Beaches are sampled using the composite sampling method approved by EGLE. Follow-up samples after Level 2, 3, or 4 will utilize the geometric mean.