



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 20, 2025

Public Health Advisory Update

Issued: August 20, 2025

Issued by: Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD)

The public health advisory issued by Grand Traverse County Health Department on **August 19** for **Clinch Park Beach and Sunset Park Beach** has been **lifted**, following water sample results showing that **E. coli** levels meet **safety standards** set by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for **Level 1 full-body contact**.

The advisory was originally issued in response to an **accidental release of approximately 500 gallons of sewage into Kids Creek** during a construction project to repair an existing sewer main.

Level 4 Advisory Remains for Kids Creek and the Boardman/Ottaway River

Although beaches are now safe for swimming, for cautionary purposes, **Kids Creek and portions of the Boardman/Ottaway River remain under a Level 4 no-body contact advisory**. Water samples collected today, **August 20**, are still being processed.

Affected Areas:

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

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.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 20, 2025

Health Alert - Grand Traverse County Report

Samples collected August 19, Reported August 20

GRAND TRAVERSE BAY

Beach	This week's sample results: <u>E. coli count per 100ml</u>	Water Quality Index
Clinch Park	91	Level 1
Sunset Park	59	Level 1
Boardman River: Wadsworth Street to the mouth of West GT Bay	TBD	Level 4
Kids Creek: 6th Street bridge to confluence with Boardman River	TBD	Level 4

Water Quality Index	Body Contact Limits	E. coli/100ml (single event)	E. coli/100ml (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 is 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.		

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.