

## Fact Sheet

# Water Safety

## Bathing Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program



### Monitored Beaches

Part 125 of Act 368, Public Acts of 1978, provides for testing and evaluation of public bathing beaches by local health departments. The St. Clair County Health Department monitors 8 beaches in St. Clair County weekly from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Samples are generally taken one foot below the surface in water that is approximately three feet deep.

#### Beach

Fort Gratiot County Park  
Conger Lighthouse Beach  
Holland Road Beach  
Keewadhin Road Beach  
Lakeport State Campground  
Lakeside Beach  
Chrysler Park Beach  
Marine City Beach

#### Location

Lake Huron  
Lake Huron  
Lake Huron  
Lake Huron  
Lake Huron  
Lake Huron  
St. Clair River  
St. Clair River

**24-hour Hotline:** (877) 504-SWIM or (810) 987-7253

**Facebook:** St. Clair County Beaches

**Web:** [www.deq.state.mi.us/beach](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/beach)

**Smart Phone App:** MyBeachCast

The Michigan Public Health Code sets standards that limit the levels of E. coli at beaches called Total Body Contact Standards. A beach is closed whenever these standards are exceeded. Generally, following a heavy rainfall, the beaches may be closed due to polluted storm water run-off.

### Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)

E. coli bacteria are common microbes found in the digestive tracts of warm blooded animals, including humans. The presence of E. coli in water serves as an indicator of potential bacterial contamination at our beaches.

### How to Keep our Beaches Healthy

Common sources of E. coli come from animal waste, malfunctioning septic systems, and storm drains. When it rains, storm water becomes infected with pollutants and bacteria which contaminate our beaches. Here are easy ways to help keep our water clean and beaches healthy.



**Waterfowl** – Do not feed the geese, ducks, or gulls. If you feed them on the beach, they go on the beach.

**Pets** – Clean up after pets and immediately dispose of the waste in the trash.

**Litter** – Place litter, including cigarette butts and grill ashes in trash cans.

**Storm Drain** – Never place anything down a storm drain, including litter, leaves, fertilizer, oil, or chemicals.



***For more sources of information on this topic visit:***

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT [www.scchealth.co](http://www.scchealth.co)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY [www.deq.state.mi.us/beach](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/beach)