

HOW WE MONITOR BEACH WATER QUALITY



WHAT WE TEST FOR

We monitor water quality from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

We test for *E. coli* because it's the best indicator if there are germs in the water that can make you sick.

We also test for blue-green algae blooms because they can be toxic to people and animals.



WHEN WE COLLECT BACTERIA SAMPLES

We collect water for *E. coli* testing at least once a week at each beach that we monitor.

If bacteria levels are high, we close the beach for swimming.

We test again each weekday until bacteria levels are acceptable, then re-open the beach for swimming.



WHEN WE COLLECT ALGAE SAMPLES

We look for blue-green algae blooms at least once a week at each beach that we monitor.

If we see a bloom, we test water each weekday for algae toxins.

The beach will be closed for swimming until levels are low enough for swimming.

CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE QUICKLY

Water conditions can vary a lot through the day and from day-to-day. **Always look at the water around you before you get in.** Conditions can change quickly. A test result may not always reflect the current water quality.

Remember

- When signs say it's not safe for swimming, or you think you see blue-green algae, stay out of the water. Keep pets out of the water as well.
- Don't go in the water after a heavy rainfall. Bacteria levels in the water may be high, and may make you sick.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Often, when one beach is closed for swimming, others are open. Check our website before you head out the door: publichealthmdc.com/beaches.

While you're there, sign up to get email notifications about which beaches are open or closed.

You can also find a list of the beaches we monitor.

Questions or concerns?

- Email us: lab@publichealthmdc.com
- Call us: 608-243-0380