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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pinellas County Saltwater Beach Warning

ST. PETERSBURG-A warning has been issued for the St. Petersburg municipal beach at North Shore, based on the marine water bacterial indicators that have been recommended by the DEP.

This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

The Pinellas County Health Department has been conducting saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 14 sites once every two weeks since July 31st, 2000 and weekly since August 5th, 2002, through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. The water samples are being analyzed for enteric bacteria (both fecal coliform and enterococci), that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals, and which may cause human disease, infections or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets, wildlife, and human sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant beach water quality problems. Results from tests conducted on 8/25/2005.

Site	Beach	Beach	Fecal Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococci	Enterococci	Enterococci Geometric Mean	Enterococci Geometric Mean
#	Name	Location	CFU per 100 ml*	Water Quality*	CFU per 100 ml**	Water Quality**	Mean Average**	Water Quality**
SP-11	North Shore	Pinellas County	600	Poor	70	Moderate	35.31	Poor

Water quality classifications are based upon:

- (1) * Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) adopted Criteria for Surface Water Quality Classifications (Chapter 62-302.530, Florida Administrative Code), which establishes a fecal coliform standard of no more than **400** colony forming units per 100 milliliters for 10% of the samples; and,
- (2) ** United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended standard for enterococci of no more than **104** colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water, or a geometric mean of the five most current weekly samples of no more than **35** colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 538-7277 ext. 1134, or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website www.doh.state.fl.us, click on the drop down arrow next to "-Choose Subject-" and then select "Beach Water Quality".

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The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.
www.PinellasHealth.com