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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Shore Beach Advisory Lifted

The January 4, 2008 advisory issued for **North Shore Beach has been lifted**, based on results of the marine water bacterial indicator recommended by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The Pinellas County Health Department conducts saltwater beach testing through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (both fecal coliform and enterococci), that normally inhabit the intestinal tracts 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 storm water run-off, pets, wildlife and sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant beach water quality problems.

Results from water testing conducted at North Shore Beach 1/08/2008:

Fecal Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococci	Enterococci	Enterococci Geometric Mean	Enterococci Geometric Mean
CFU per 100 ml*	Water Quality*	CFU per 100 ml**	Water Quality**	Mean Average**	Water Quality**
20	Good	4	Good	8.19	Good

Water quality classifications are based upon:

Florida DEP’s adopted Criteria for Surface Water Quality, which establishes a fecal coliform standard of no more than 399 colony forming units per 100 milliliters for 10% of the samples; and, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 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 35.99 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water.

For more information about Florida’s Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program, visit the Florida Department of Health’s website at www.doh.state.fl.us/, click on the “Floridians and Visitors” icon, scroll to the “Food, Water, Air, Land” section and select “Beach Water Quality.”

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