



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRUDY D. FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2014

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MDEQ Issues Water Contact Advisory

(JACKSON, Miss.) -- The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), through its Beach Monitoring Program, issued a water contact advisory Saturday for a sampling station in Harrison County. This segment of beach is not closed; however, there may be an increased risk of illness associated with swimming in this area.

MDEQ is working closely with local officials to advise residents that the water in the following locations may have high bacteria levels:

- Station 9 -- Gulfport Harbor Beach -- from 20th Avenue east to Thornton Avenue.

In addition, these four stations remain under an advisory:

- Station 1 -- Lakeshore Beach -- from the Silver Slipper east to the jetty west of Poinset Avenue.
- Station 4 -- Bay St. Louis Beach -- from the box culvert east to Ballantine Street.
- Station 5 -- Past Christian West Beach -- from Fort Henry Avenue east to Elliot Street.
- Station 11 -- Gulfport East Beach -- from Tegarden Road east to Anniston Avenue.

When water samples show that levels are safe for human contact, the advisories will be lifted. The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, which performs water sampling of the Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches for MDEQ, notifies the agency when an area has returned to acceptable levels.

Additionally, swimmers are reminded that the Beach Task Force has a standing recommendation that swimming not occur during or within 24 hours of a significant rainfall event.

More information on the Mississippi Beach Monitoring Program:

<http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi>.

To receive beach advisories directly, send an email to rwilbur@deq.state.ms.us for inclusion in a public group email list, text "MDEQbeach" to 95577, or follow MDEQ on Twitter: @MDEQ.

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