



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
GARY C. RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Robbie Wilbur  
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August 27, 2015

(JACKSON, Miss.) -- The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), through its Beach Monitoring Program, issued a water contact advisory Thursday for a sampling station in Pass Christian. 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 location may have high bacteria levels:

► Station 7 – Pass Christian East Beach – from Espy Avenue east to Hayden Avenue.

When water samples show that levels are safe for human contact, the advisory 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.

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>. Background information about the program and answers to Frequently Asked Questions are at this link:

<http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/faq.htm>.

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