



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRUDY D. FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Author: Robbie Wilbur

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Contact: Robbie Wilbur

601/961-5277

MDEQ ISSUES WATER CONTACT ADVISORY FOR LOCATION IN HANCOCK COUNTY

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

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

- Station 4 -- Bay St. Louis Beach near St. Charles Street -- from the box culvert eastward to Ballantine Street.

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.

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 or follow MDEQ on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/MDEQ>.

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