

# Making Your Childcare Centre a *Healthy Environment*



## A Fact Sheet for Childcare Operators and Staff

York Region Health Services is mandated to inspect all childcare centres to ensure compliance with food safety regulations, infection control, playground safety and safe water standards.

This fact sheet is provided for information and guidance to childcare centre operators.

### BEACH WATER SAFETY

York Region Health Services Department monitors water quality at York Region's public bathing beaches during the summer months to ensure that the water is safe for swimming. Here is some information to help make your trip to the beach a fun, safe and healthy one.

#### Which Beaches are tested?

##### Lake Simcoe

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Claredon Beach                | 8. Franklin Beach                                 |
| 2. Keswick Beach (Church Street) | 9. De La Salle Beach                              |
| 3. Balfour Beach                 | 10. Jackson's Point Beach                         |
| 4. Maple Leaf Beach              | 11. Holmes Point                                  |
| 5. Island Grove                  | 12. Penninsula Motel                              |
| 6. Paradise/Willow Beach         | 13. Port Bolster Beach                            |
| 7. Willow Beach Dock             | 14. Glenwoods Beach<br>(South Keswick- Glenwoods) |

#### Other Locations in York Region

Township of King—Recreation Island at Seneca College  
Town of Richmond Hill—Sunset beach  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville—Shadow Lake  
Cedar Beach (Musselman's Lake)

#### Why are beaches tested?

Water samples are collected from each beach site once per week during the summer months from mid-June to September. Beach samples are tested for bacterial quality by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Laboratory. High levels of bacteria can cause illness in bathers including skin, ear, eye, nose and throat infections as well as stomach disorders.



This fact sheet has been produced by York Region Health Services,  
Health Protection Division

Questions? Call *Health Connection* 1-800-361-5653





## Beach Postings

When the level of bacteria is high enough to cause illness, the Health Services Department staff will post a sign at the beach, which reads:

Warning  
Unsafe for Swimming  
High level of bacteria in these waters  
may pose a risk to your health

Beaches will be closed when there are indications of hazardous or infectious materials present in the water or in the event of blue-green algae bloom. When the water is once again safe for swimming, the beach will re-open.

## Which Beaches are open?

To find out which beaches are open or closed, please call the Beach Postings Hotline at 1-800-361-5653 or log onto [www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca). The York Region Health Services Department will regularly update the status of each beach as results become available.

## What is polluting our beaches?

There are many factors that contribute to water pollution, including:

- Seasonal and storm surface run-off into rivers and lakes
- Sewer overflows
- Agricultural manure and feedlot run-off
- Malfunctioning septic systems
- Domestic pet wastes
- Large populations of waterfowl
- Warm water temperatures

You can help by:

- properly disposing of garbage
- not feeding geese or birds
- stoop and scoop if you have pets
- not going into the water with an infection or open wound

## Wash Up!

Contaminants can be found anywhere within the beach area from the sand to the water. Ensure each child washes their hands and feet to prevent infection or illness from materials present in the water and/or the sand.



**Enjoy your trip to the beach!!**