

Beach Water Safety

During the summer months, York Region Public Health monitors water quality at Regional public bathing beaches to ensure that the water is safe for swimming. The following information will help to make your trip to the beach a fun, safe and healthy one.

Which beaches are tested?

- Lake Simcoe
- Claredon Beach Park (under construction as of May 2015)
- Church Street Parkette (formerly known as Keswick Beach)
- North Gwillimbury Park
- Sheppard Avenue Park (formerly known as Island Grove)
- Willow Beach
- Willow Wharf Dock
- Franklin Beach
- De La Salle Beach
- Jackson's Point Beach
- Holmes Point Beach
- Peninsula Resort Beach
- Riverview Park (formerly known as Port Bolster Beach)
- Glenwoods Beach

Why beaches are tested?

Water samples are collected from each beach site a minimum of once per week from mid-June to end of August. Beach samples are tested for E.coli levels by the Public Health Ontario Laboratory. High levels of bacteria can cause illnesses in bathers including skin, ear, eye, nose and throat infections as well as stomach disorders.

Beach postings

All public beaches are posted with a sign informing the public if the beach is safe for swimming. The blue sign indicates it is safe to swim unless there has been heavy rainfall in the past 48 hours. When the level of bacteria is high enough to cause illness the sign will change to red indicating it is unsafe to swim. Beaches will be closed when there are indicators of hazardous or infectious materials present in the water or in the event of blue-green algae bloom.

1-800-361-5653
TTY: **1-866-252-9933**



York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services

Public Health

york.ca



To find out which beaches are safe for swimming, please call York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653 or visit york.ca/beaches. Beach postings will be regularly updated as beach water testing results become available.

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

- Seasonal and storm surface run-off into rivers and lakes
- Sewer overflows or malfunctioning septic systems
- Agricultural manure and feedlot run-off
- Domestic pet waste or large populations of waterfowl
- Warm water temperatures

You can help by:

- Properly disposing of garbage
- Not feeding geese and birds
- Stoop and scoop if you have pets
- Not going into the water with an infection or open wound

Contaminants can be found anywhere within the beach area from sand to water. To prevent infection or illness from pathogens present in the water and/or sand, the following precautions must be taken:

- Ensure children wash their hands thoroughly after swimming and playing in the sand
- Ensure children do not swallow water and/or get water into their eyes while swimming
- Prevent children from ingesting sand while playing on the beach

For more information refer to *A Public Health Guide For Child Care Providers* at york.ca/childcareguide



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