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CONTACT:
Christina Anthony &
Matt Johnson, PIOs
pio@kalcounty.com

Beach Water Quality Monitoring Resumes in Kalamazoo County Ahead of Memorial Day

KALAMAZOO, Mich — The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department’s Environmental Health Division resumes annual water quality testing of nine public bathing beaches this week. The results of this testing, which are specific to the beaches and not the lake as a whole, can be found on the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy’s (EGLE) [BeachGuard website](#), and would trigger a public health advisory if bacteria levels exceed the limits set by EGLE.

“Bathing beach sampling occurs from about Memorial Day to Labor Day as a way to ensure safe and healthy public swimming waters for residents to enjoy during the summer season,” Environmental Health Division Manager Lucus Pols said. “When a risk arises, we advise the public of the date and location of the beach, and follow up when that advisory is eventually lifted.”

While there are no [public health advisories](#) to report at this time, several factors can influence bacteria counts – such as land use and land development, weather conditions, wind direction, air and water temperatures, season, stormwater inputs (runoff), wildlife concentrations, and the number and frequency of bathers. The presence of E. coli bacteria suggests that other harmful, disease-causing pathogens may also be present.

If either the single-day (one event) or 30-day geometric mean (at least five events) bacteria count exceeds the established limit, a public health advisory for total body contact will be issued. After continued monitoring, Environmental Health will lift the public health advisory when E. coli bacteria levels meet the Michigan Water Quality Standards.

Bathing Beaches Monitored by Kalamazoo County

Blue Lake at Cold Brook County Park	Campbell Lake at Robert Morris Park
Eagle Lake at Fort Custer Recreation Area	Gull Lake at Ross Township Park
Hogsett Lake at Prairie View County Park	Long Lake at Ramona Park
Swimmer’s Lake at Markin Glen County Park	Woods Lake at Woods Lake Park
Sunset Lake at Sunset Lake Park	

The Environmental Health Division provides surface water and bathing beach monitoring to interested parties, such as lake associations, camps, and landowners. As a reminder, the results of testing are

indicative of that specific area and timeframe. The [Surface Water Sample Request Form](#) can be found on the [Licensing and Applications webpage](#). The service includes:

- Conducting a sanitary survey, including watershed information, nearby land use, lake inputs and outputs
- Conducting a field survey during each sampling event
- Collecting & analyzing three surface water samples for E. coli bacteria
- Preparing a report to be faxed, mailed, or emailed
- Presenting the information to the interested parties

Residents are encouraged to check Kalamazoo County Government's website for additional information regarding bathing beaches and weekly updates: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh/rw/bathing-beach.php>

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