



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9, 2022

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Testing of Bathing Beach Water Quality Resumes in Kalamazoo County

KALAMAZOO, MI — Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department’s Environmental Health Unit began annual water quality monitoring of bathing beaches on Monday, May 23, 2022. The Environmental Health Unit monitors water quality weekly at nine public bathing beaches from Memorial Day through Labor Day every year.

The results of bathing beaches are indicative to that specific area, not the lake as a whole. 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.

“Bathing beach sampling occurs annually as a way to ensure safe and healthy public swimming waters for our residents to enjoy throughout the summer season,” says Lucus Pols, Environmental Health Division Chief. “We typically see a small number of closures during the season. When there is a risk however, we advise the public of when and where as well as when that advisory is lifted.”

A public health advisory is issued when the monitoring conducted by Environmental Health determines that bacteria levels exceed the limits set by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). If either the single-day (one event) or thirty-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	

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Environmental Health will provide surface water and bathing beach monitoring to interested parties (lake associations, camps, land owners). 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 e-mailed
- Presenting the information to the interested parties

Residents are encouraged to check Kalamazoo County'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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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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