



# CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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MAYOR

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ROBERT F. BRACEY  
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## Newburyport Bathing Beached Closed Due to High Bacteria counts

DATE: August 31, 2011

CONTACT: Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health

City: Newburyport

TELEPHONE: 1-978-465-4410

The City of Newburyport Health Department has announced that effective August 31, 2011 @ 1:00 p.m. all public bathing beaches in the City have been ordered closed due to high levels of an "Indicator Organism" called *Enterococci* bacteria counts

Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health confirms that routine weekly marine water samples collected by the Health Department on August 30, 2011 indicted very high levels of the *Enterococci* bacteria.

Indicator organisms, as their name implies, are used to "indicate" the presence of conditions which have the potential to cause illness. Through various studies conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it has been determined that certain levels of some indicator organisms in bathing beach waters represents a threat to the public health. Enterococci has proven most useful bacteria indicator for determining the extent of fecal contamination in marine recreational waters

In accordance with the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 445.000 "Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches" Section .031: Indicator Organisms:**

(a) For marine water, the indicator organism shall be *Enterococci*.  
(1) No single *Enterococci* sample shall exceed 104 colonies per 100ml.

### August 30, 2011 Marine Water Samples:

- Plum Island Point - 253 colonies per 100ml.
- End of Point #1 – 189 colonies per 100ml.
- End of Point #2 – 253 colonies per 10ml.
- 55<sup>th</sup> Street – 256 colonies per 100ml.

In accordance with the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 445.000 “Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches” Section .040 “Posting and Reopening Notifications”**

The Health Department in conjunction with the City of Newburyport Harbormasters Office has posted the appropriate notification at all beaches:

**WARNING! “NO SWIMMING. SWIMMING MAY CAUSE ILLNESS”**

The City Health Department on August 31, 2011 conducted a second round of marine water samples for testing. Further testing will be conducted by the State Public Health Department water testing laboratory in Gloucester Massachusetts on September 1 and each subsequent day until the beaches are reopened. Results will be provided to the Health Department and shared with the general public.

Please be assured that the Mayors office and the City Health Department will continue to monitor this situation closely and are working to ensure that beaches will be reopened as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Newburyport Health Department at 978-465-4410.