



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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ROBERT F. BRACEY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Newburyport bathing beaches to remain closed Due to continuous failure of the geometric levels of the *Enterococci* bacteria.

DATE: September 1, 2011

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City: Newburyport

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The City of Newburyport Health Department has announced that effective September 1, 2011 that all public bathing beaches in the City will remain closed due to high levels of *Enterococci* bacteria counts

Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health confirms that addition marine water samples collected by the Health Department on August 31, 2011 and September 1, 2011 indicate continuous failure of the geometric levels of the *Enterococci* bacteria.

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 and the geometric mean of the most recent (5) Enterococci levels within the same bathing season shall not exceed 35 colonies per 100ml*

August 31, 2011 Geometric Marine Water Sample levels:

- Plum Island Point - 40 colonies per 100ml.
- End of Point #1 – 52.8 colonies per 100ml.
- End of Point #2 – 42 colonies per 10ml.
- 55th Street – 48.7 colonies per 100ml.



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The Mayors office and the Health Department believe that due to the recent tropical storm (Irene) on August 28, 2011 which produced excessive amount of rainfall contributed to substantial storm water runoff and flooding in the upper communities of the Merrimack River. The Mayors Office and the Health Department believe that because of the directional flow of the Merrimack river downstream toward the City Newburyport, the City is now the recipient of all the excessive sediments, storm water runoff and flooding water which is causing the continuous increased levels of *Enterococci* bacteria.

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 has order the beaches to remain closed and will continue to keep the current warning notification posted at all beaches:

WARNING! “NO SWIMMING SWIMMING MAY CAUSE ILLNESS”

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