



Department of Health

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Beach Owners and Managers,

All licensed facilities are required to collect pre-opening samples. These samples are necessary to determine if your area is suitable for swimming. New sources of contamination can happen at anytime. After closing for the winter you need to ensure your facility is not impacted and is ready for the summer season.

Pre-opening samples are in addition to the required sampling schedule sent out in your facility's packet at the start of each season. No facility is to open without submitting the pre-opening samples. Such samples should be collected the week before you plan to open, regardless of the date.

The mission of the Rhode Island Department of Health's (HEALTH) Beach Program is to protect the public from illness associated with swimming in contaminated bathing waters. The Beach Program maintains a risk based monitoring system for bacteriological testing. Each facility has been assigned a specific monitoring schedule based on historical data and sources of contamination. It is the responsibility of the beach manager or owner to abide by the requirements of HEALTH.

As required by the Beach Program all bathing areas are to be tested for Enterococci bacteria prior to and while open. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) standard for safe swimming is 104-colony forming units per 100 milliliters (cfu/100ml) for saltwater and 61-cfu/100ml for freshwater.

Any beach that does not submit the required number of samples in their specified timeframe will be subject to disciplinary actions.

All monitoring results are available to the public through the Beach Program website www.ribeaches.org. All closure notifications are maintained on the website or by calling (401) 222-2751.

Thank you and Safe Swimming,
Rhode Island Beach Program