



FLORIDA HEALTHY BEACHES PROGRAM

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Florida Department of Health in Monroe County

Florida Healthy Beaches Program – History

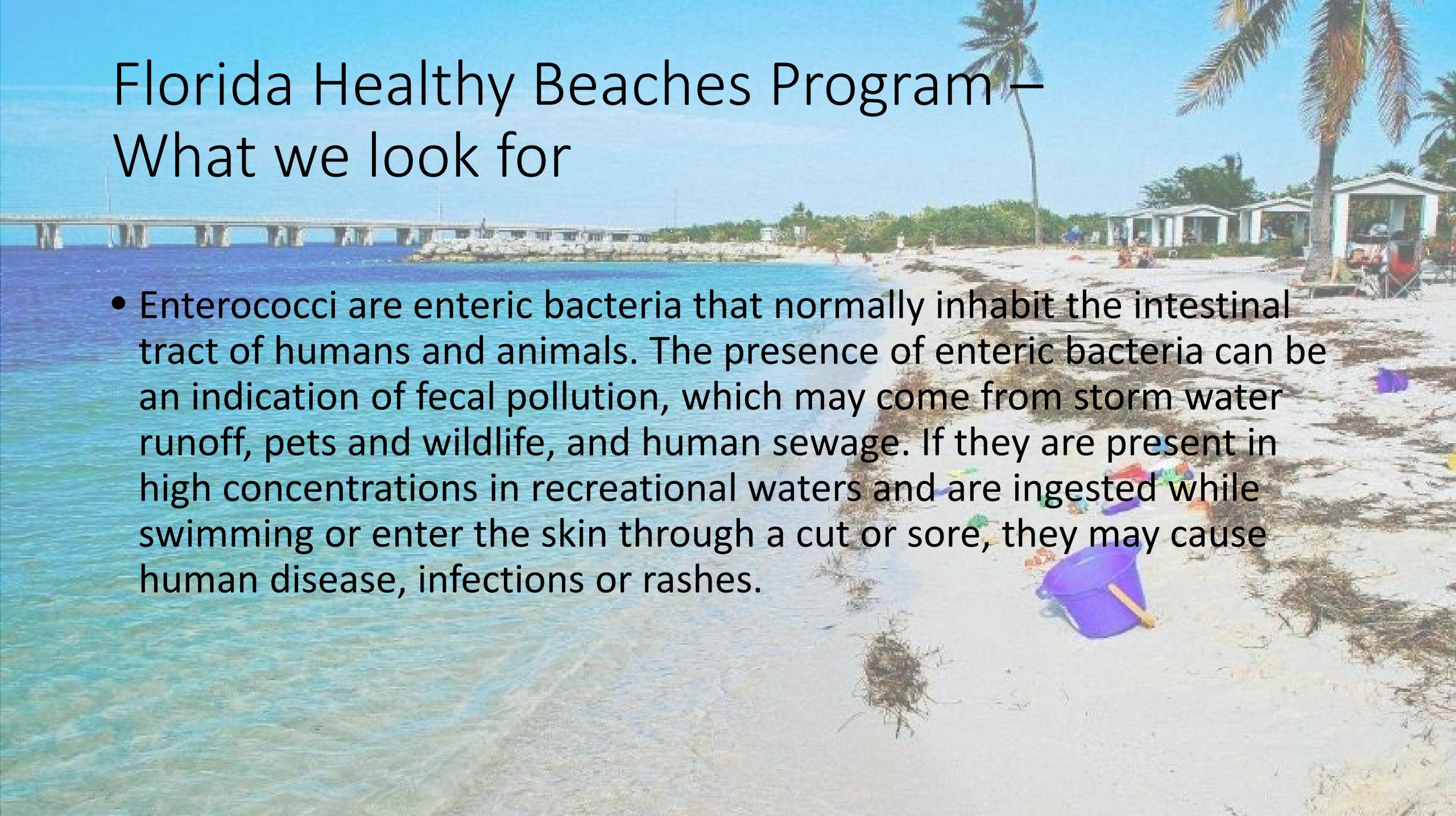
- Healthy Beaches Program started in 1998, five of Florida's coastal counties began monitoring for enterococci bacteria under a grant-funded pilot program. By the beginning of 2000, 11 Florida counties were participating in the program, which continued through July 2000.
- In August 2000, the Beach Water Sampling Program was extended to 34 of Florida's coastal counties through state legislation (Senate Bill 1412 and House Bill 2145) and funding. **Monroe County began the beach water sampling at this time.**

Florida Healthy Beaches Program – EPA recommended indicator

- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recommended states adopt as a saltwater quality indicator, enterococci. According to studies conducted by the EPA, enterococci have a greater correlation with swimming-associated gastrointestinal illness in both marine and fresh waters than other bacterial indicator organisms, and are less likely to "die off" in saltwater. If an enterococci result were observed to exceed 70 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of beach water sampled and a resampling result also exceeds this value, then an "Advisory" would be issued for the sampling site.

Florida Healthy Beaches Program – What we look for

- Enterococci are enteric bacteria that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria can be an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from storm water runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. If they are present in high concentrations in recreational waters and are ingested while swimming or enter the skin through a cut or sore, they may cause human disease, infections or rashes.

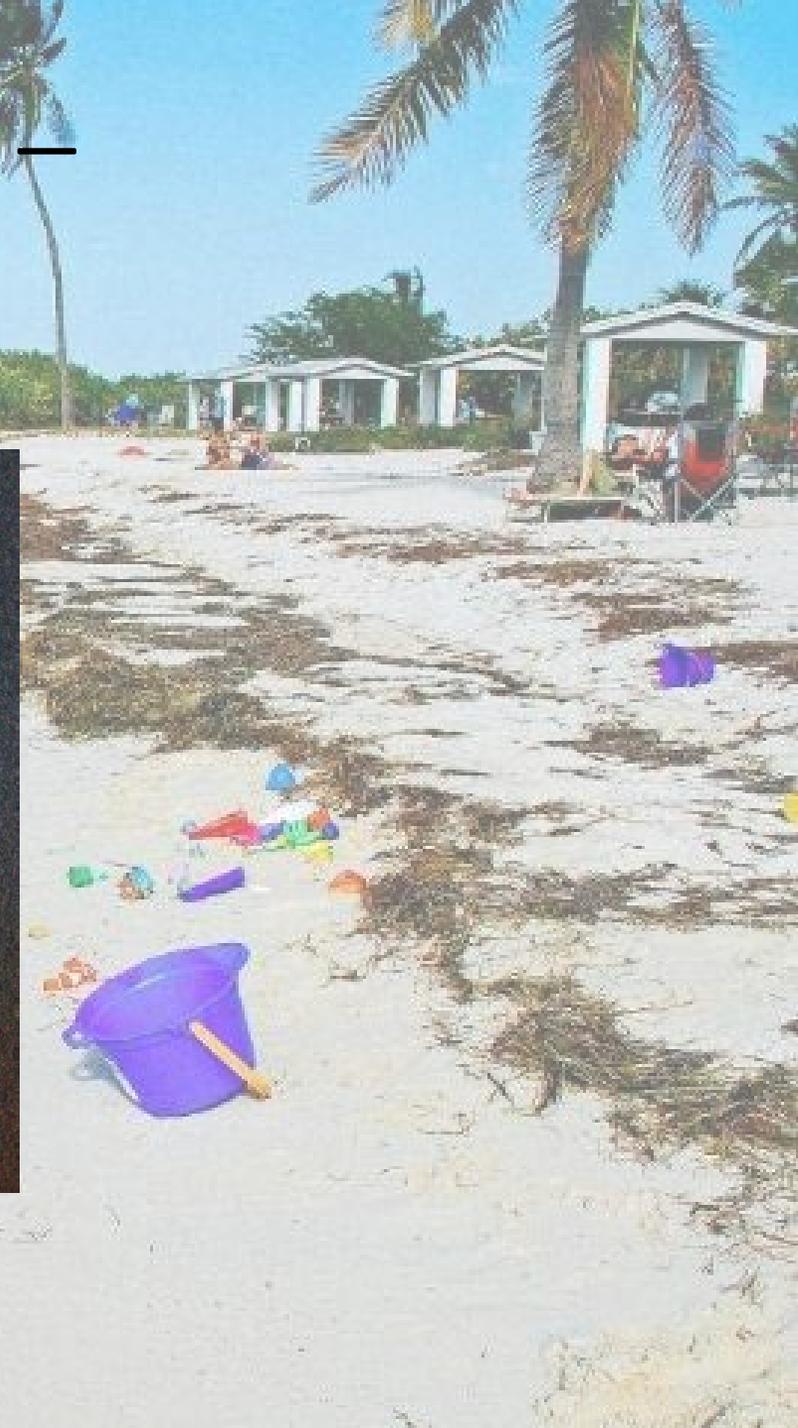


Florida Healthy Beaches Program – Categories

- **Good** = 0-35 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water
- **Moderate** = 36-70 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water
- **Poor** = 71 or greater Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water



Florida Healthy Beaches Program – Beach Posting



Florida Healthy Beaches Program – Press Release

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Monroe State Surgeon General

Press Release: Friday, July 8, 2016

Issued by: The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County

To: Residents and Visitors of the Florida Keys

Water quality testing performed by the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County has indicated that **ALL** of the beach samplings were within the **acceptable** ranges this test period. (Testing takes place bi-weekly)

The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County has been conducting saltwater beach water quality sampling since August 15, 2000 as part of the Florida Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. We are presently sampling eleven (11) beaches on a bi-weekly basis. The water samples are being examined for enterococci bacteria that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals, and which may cause human disease, infections or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from storm water runoff, pets, wildlife and human sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine Florida's beach water quality.

NAME	CITY	ENTEROCOCCUS	WATER QUALITY	ADVISORY?
BAHIA HONDA BAYSIDE	BIG PINE KEY	20	GOOD	NO
BAHIA HONDA OCEANSIDE	BIG PINE KEY	66	MODERATE	NO
BAHIA HONDA SANDSPUR	BIG PINE KEY	7	GOOD	NO
FOUNDERS PARK	ISLAMORADA	8	GOOD	NO
FT ZACHARY TAYLOR STATE PK	KEY WEST	2	GOOD	NO
HARRY HARRIS COUNTY PARK	KEY LARGO	11	GOOD	NO
HIGGS BEACH	KEY WEST	2	GOOD	NO
JOHN PENNEKAMP STATE PARK	KEY LARGO	14	GOOD	NO
SMATHERS BEACH	KEY WEST	4	GOOD	NO
SOMBRERO BEACH	MARATHON	24	GOOD	NO
SOUTH BEACH	KEY WEST	30	GOOD	NO

Water quality classifications are based upon:

United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended criteria for enterococci is:

Good 0-35 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water

Moderate 36-69 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water

Poor 70 or Greater Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water

An Advisory is issued for a beach that samples in the "Poor" range of the EPA standards.

This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

If you have questions, please call the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County Beach Information Hotline at: 877-892-9585 or 305-293-1653 or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website at:

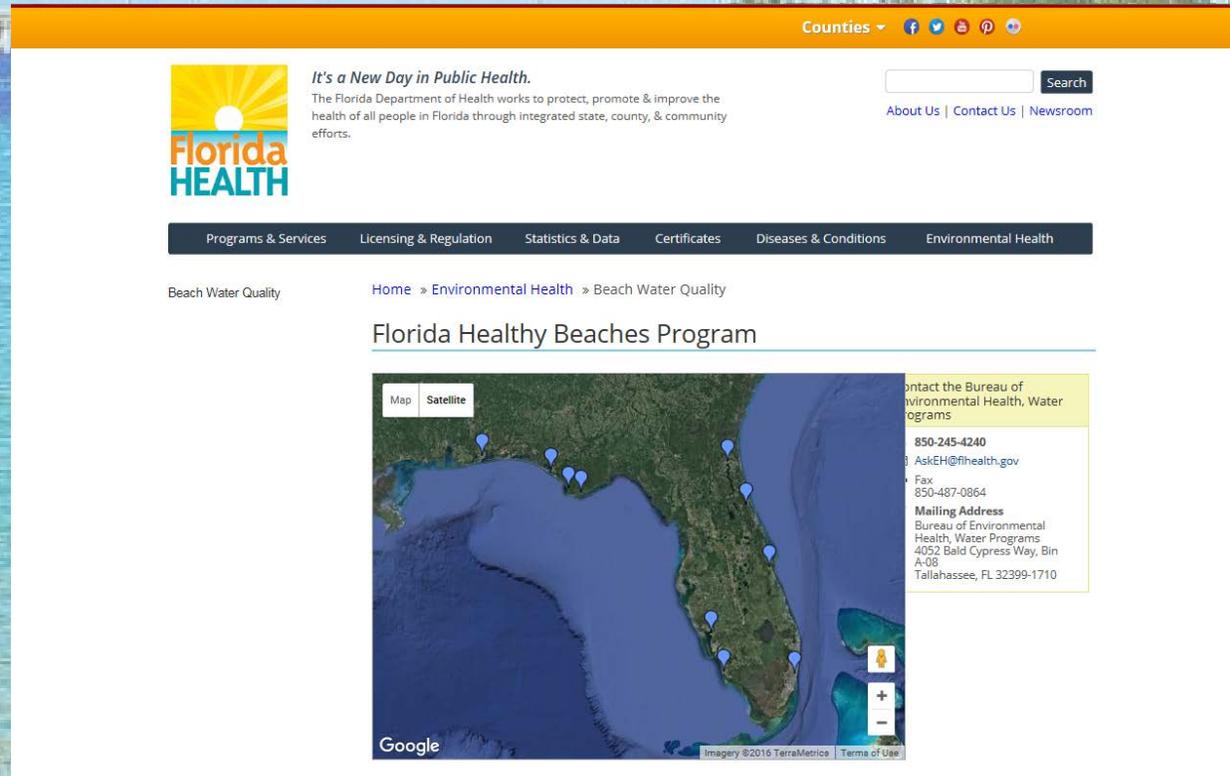
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/index.html>, click "Environmental Health", select "Beach Water Quality", the Florida Healthy Beaches Program opens, scroll to the bottom of the page and select Monroe County for your Beach Water Sampling Results for this test period.

Thank you, Bureau of Environmental Health

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Community Health Services - Bureau of Environmental Health
333 Overseas Highway - Marathon, FL 33050
PHONE: (888) 284-2772 - FAX: (888) 285-2722
FloridaHealth.gov



Florida Healthy Beaches Program – Website and historical data



Counties ▾     

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The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts.

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Florida Healthy Beaches Program

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Contact the Bureau of Environmental Health, Water Programs

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710

- <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/index.html>

Florida Healthy Beaches Program



• QUESTIONS?

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