

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2013

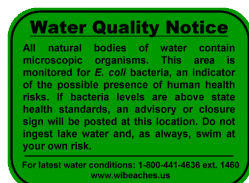
Contact: Sarah DeRoo
Office (414) 286-3548
Cell (414) 708-4060

Health Officials Kick-off Beach Season in Milwaukee
City of Milwaukee Health Department now posting beach water quality advisories online

MILWAUKEE – As summer weather finally arrives in Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is kicking off beach season by making it easier for residents to find the most recent conditions of Milwaukee’s beach water.

“Thanks to a great partnership between the City of Milwaukee Health Department and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Zilber School of Public Health, we are able to more frequently assess water quality conditions at the public beaches to ensure that city’s beachgoers have healthy summer fun,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker.

The MHD uses a public notification system guided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that uses the colors green, yellow, and red to guide the public in current water quality conditions. In addition to postings (shown below) at each of the City’s three Lake Michigan beaches, residents and visitors can now find the latest beach water advisories at <http://www.milwaukee.gov/health> and <http://www.wibeaches.us/>.



Green Placard:
Risk of illness
minimal



Yellow Placard:
Risk of illness
elevated



Red Placard:
Swimming not
advised

Water at Milwaukee’s Bradford, McKinley, and South Shore beaches is tested from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Water samples are analyzed by both the City of Milwaukee Health Department Public Health Laboratory and Zilber School of Public Health Environmental Laboratory for a variety of factors, including microbial contaminants that may indicate potential health risks. Public advisories are posted within 24 hours of collection.

For more information, visit www.milwaukee.gov/health.

###