

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Health Officials Kick-off Beach Season in Milwaukee**

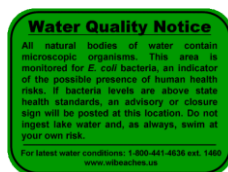
*City of Milwaukee Health Department beach water quality testing begins, results to be posted daily*

MILWAUKEE – Although an extended stretch of summer weather has yet to arrive in Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is once again kicking off beach season by updating beachgoers to the conditions of Milwaukee’s beach water.

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

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

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



**Green Placard: Risk of illness minimal**

However, health official always advise not ingesting water and maintaining awareness of other safety hazards associated with swimming.



**Yellow Placard: Risk of illness elevated**

When swimming, take precautions such as washing hands prior to eating and showering after swimming.



**Red Placard: Swimming not advised**

Beach patrons should not enter the water, there is an elevated risk of illness due to exposure to micro-organisms.

For more information, visit [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health).

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*Think Health. Act Now!*