



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECREATIONAL BEACH MONITORING PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

LEONARDTOWN, MD (June 7, 2007) – The beauty of St. Mary's County coastline and beach recreation areas are once again attracting many local and out of county visitors. St. Mary's County Health Department has begun monitoring beach water quality and posting the results on their Web site to alert recreational bathers about the conditions at their favorite beach.

While swimming in natural waters is never risk free, routine monitoring for bacterial level provides a surveillance system to identify potential health risks that may impact beach water quality. Water quality swimming advisories are available on the Beach Hotline by calling the health department at 301-475-4330, ext. 7837.

According to local officials at the health department, even with the best monitoring data available, swimmers at local recreational beaches should take the following recommended measures, to minimize the risks associated with swimming in natural waters:

- Always take a shower or bath after swimming.
- Do not swim near storm drains located along the beach area.

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