



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECREATIONAL BEACH WATER QUALITY REPORTS ARE NOW A PHONECALL AWAY

LEONARDTOWN, MD (June 9, 2006) – It's summer time, and 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 is working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to enhance water quality monitoring and improve public notification of water conditions. A recorded message available through the health department will be active through Labor Day to provide easy access to information about local recreational swimming areas.

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 advisories, as well as a listing of beaches with satisfactory water quality conditions, are available by calling the health department at 301-475-4330, ext. 7837.

According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, 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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- Do not encourage duck, geese, or seagulls by feeding them.
- Do your part to encourage others to maintain picnic areas near the beach and keep them free of debris and garbage.
- Get involved and volunteer in local beach clean up efforts.

For more information, please contact St. Mary's County Health Department Environmental Health Services division at 301-475-4321. Beach Monitoring Water Quality Reports are also available at >www.smchd.org<

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