

California Coastal Beach Safety Monitoring Program



Fact Sheet

The California Coastal Beach Safety Monitoring Program:

- Tests coastal beach water
- Warns the public of unsafe water

Protects:

- 400+ public coastal beaches
- 45 million beachgoers a year

From pollution like:

- Sewage spills
- Stormwater runoff
- Other inland bacteria sources

Swimming in polluted water can cause:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Throat and eye infections
- Other serious illnesses

Bacteria Standards:

Local health agencies test 3 types of bacteria: total coliform, fecal coliform, and *Enterococcus*.

Bacteria concentrations above these levels, as measured by a single water test, increase the risk of illness:

- A) 1,000 total coliform bacteria per 100 ml, if the ratio of fecal/total coliform bacteria exceed 0.1,
- B) 10,000 total coliform bacteria per 100 ml,
- C) 400 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml, or
- D) 104 *Enterococcus* bacteria per 100 ml.

30-day Average bacteria levels in beach water should not exceed:

- A) 1,000 total coliform bacteria per/100 ml, or
- B) 200 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml, or
- C) 35 *Enterococcus* bacteria per 100 ml.

Monitoring Sites:

16 local environmental health agencies in CA test water and post results.

CA beaches (with over 50,000 visitors a year and near a storm drain) should monitor from at least April 1st through October 31st, uploading water quality results to the [BeachWatch](#) database.

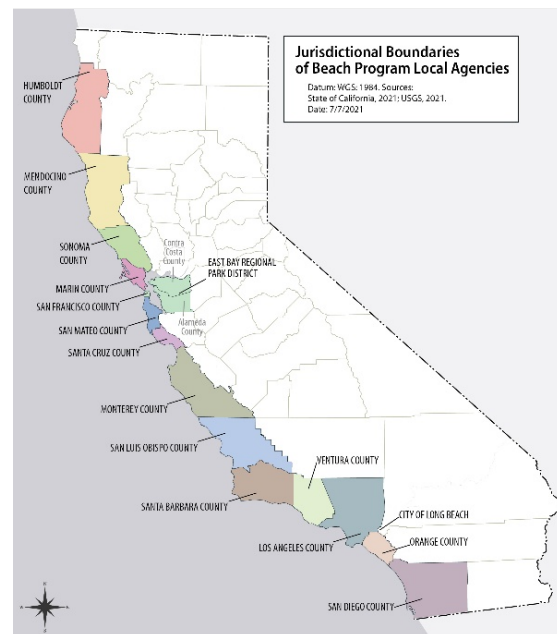


Figure 1: Map of Local Health Agencies' Monitoring Site Boundaries

Notification Systems:

The local health agencies must notify the public of unsafe water bacteria levels with telephone hotlines and beach signage.

Signage:

Local health agencies also post physical signs at legal beach entrances. Public beach entrances can be found on the California Coastal Commission's [Your Coast Map](#) (Figure 2).



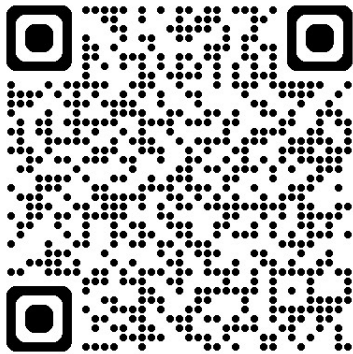
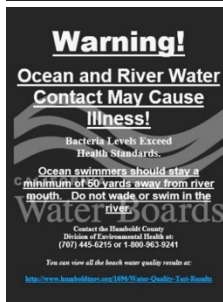


Figure 2:
QR Code to
the Map
Showcasing
Public
Access
Points to
California's
Coastal
Beaches



Other advisories may include:

- Rain advisories
- High bacteria warning postings
- Beach closures

Rain advisories warn beach goers against swimming during and three (3) days after rain, as rainwater can wash bacteria into beach waters.

A beach closure happens after emergency events that endanger human health, such as a sewage spill.

Posted signs may have small differences depending on the location and local agency but serve a similar purpose.

Local health agency websites and telephone hotlines:

[East Bay Regional Park District website](#) or (888) 327-2757

[Humboldt website](#) or (707) 445-6215

[Long Beach website](#) or (562) 570-4199

[Los Angeles website](#) or (800) 525-5662

[Marin website](#) or (415) 473-2335

Mendocino: (707) 234-6627

[Monterey website](#) or (831) 755-4599

[Orange website](#) or (714) 433-6400

[San Diego website](#) or (619) 338-2073

[San Francisco website](#) or (415) 242-2214

[San Luis Obispo website](#)

or (805) 788-3411

[San Mateo website](#) or (650) 599-1266

[Santa Barbara website](#) or (805) 681-4949

[Santa Cruz website](#) or (831) 454-4624

[Sonoma website](#) or (707) 565-6552

[Ventura website](#) or (805) 662-6555

Statewide websites:

[Online BeachWatch Program information](#)

[Safe to Swim Maps, Beach Advisories and Closures Dashboard](#)

[California Coastal Commission Beach Entrance Map](#)

Contact Us:

For further information, please email us at DWQ-beach-monitoring@waterboards.ca.gov

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