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**Health Department of Northwest Michigan**

**Advisory: Fisherman's Island State Park Beach Advisory Ends**

*Partial-body contact recommended for Otsego Arbutus beach*

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) is removing the no-body contact advisory for Fisherman's Island State Park in Charlevoix, Mich. Follow-up water sampling conducted Wednesday, July 13 showed a significantly lower E. coli level of 27.5 E. coli per 100ml, down from 2,419 per 100ml.

The lower level is considered safe for full use, wading, swimming, fishing and paddling, based on Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) water quality standards. The advisory is no longer posted at the beach.

**Advisory in place for Arbutus Beach on Otsego Lake**

Sampling taken Wednesday at Arbutus Beach show the E. coli level at 344.8 per 100ml. At this level, according to EGLE standards, HDNW advises partial body contact only, which includes wading, fishing, and paddling. Contact above the waist not advised.

A partial-body advisory is established when E. coli levels are between 301 and 1,000 per 100ml when tested. A follow-up sample was taken today at Arbutus Beach. The results will be shared by HDNW on Friday, July 15.

"Weather can play a huge role when it comes to E. coli levels on beaches in Michigan," said Jeremy Fruk, HDNW Director of Environmental Health. "Recently, we had heavy rain, which most likely contributed to high E.coli levels at the Fisherman's Island State Park Beach. Heavy rains will wash fecal matter down streams and into lakes, most of which comes from wildlife such as gulls and/or geese. High E.coli levels can clear up by the next day, especially on Lake Michigan if weather is favorable."

Through an EGLE supported web-based program, the public has real-time access to beach water quality results for beaches all over Michigan. Information can be found at [www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/).

Recent results from all other beach tests allow for full use. HDNW samples more than 50 area beaches annually throughout Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.

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*The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit [nwhealth.org](http://nwhealth.org).*