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**Health Department of Northwest Michigan**

**Richardi Park Beach Advisory in Place**

*Partial-body contact recommended*

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) is issuing a partial body contact advisory for Richardi Park Beach in Antrim County, Michigan. A water sample collected Wednesday showed an E. coli level of 325.5 E. coli per 100ml, which calls for restricted use based on Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) water quality standards. The advisory is posted at the beach.

At this level, HDNW recommends limiting water contact to wading, fishing, and paddling. Contact above the waist is not advised.

A follow-up water sample was taken today at the beach on E. Antrim Street in Bellaire. Results will be known and shared with the public Friday, August 26.

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. Rain can 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 within 24-48 hours, especially on Lake Michigan if the weather is favorable.

HDNW is now maintaining beach monitoring reports on its website at <https://www.nwhealth.org/beach.html>. 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/).

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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).*