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For Immediate Release

Two Otsego County Beach Advisories Issued
Body contact restrictions differ for each beach

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) is issuing beach advisories for Otsego Lake State Park and Otsego County Park, both in Otsego County, for today, July 20. Water samples taken Wednesday showed elevated E. coli levels at both beaches that warrant restricted use based on Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) water quality standards. The advisories are posted at both beaches.

Specifically, for Otsego Lake State Park, a full body contact advisory is in place. After testing, the Wednesday water sample came back with an E. coli level of 2,419.6 per 100 milliliters (ml) – a level that advises no swimming, wading or other contact with the water.

For Otsego County Park, a partial body contact advisory is in place. The Wednesday water sample came back with an E. coli level of 435.2 per 100 ml – a level that advises no water contact above the waist. Wading, paddling, and fishing are considered safe.

Levels between 301 and 1,000 per 100 ml qualify for partial body contact advisories, based on EGLE standards. Levels greater than 1,000 per 100ml qualify for no body contact with the water. This level is considered a health alert.

Water sampling is done throughout the summer months to monitor E. coli levels at many public beaches. The levels change frequently, impacted by the presence of fowl, waves, and more. When a sample comes back that creates an advisory of any type, the water at that beach is sampled again the next day to keep the public updated.

Test results of today's sampling will be issued tomorrow, Friday, July 21.

HDNW posts beach monitoring reports weekly 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/.

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HDNW 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.



Proud member of the [Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance](#): 7 local health departments advocating for public health.