February 1, 2019

**BACTERIA LEVELS ELEVATED**

*Residents urged to avoid contact with waters near Leighton Park in Palm City and the Roosevelt Bridge in Stuart.*

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**Martin County, FL** – An advisory is now in effect for the waters near Leighton Park in Palm City and the Roosevelt Bridge in Stuart. Results from samples taken on Wednesday show higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria.

Enteric bacteria inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals and their presence in recreational waters is an indication of fecal pollution. The presence of these bacteria may come from storm water runoff, pets, wildlife and human sewage.

Potential health risks for those who ingest or come in contact with the water include upset stomach, diarrhea, eye irritation and skin rashes.

The advisory will remain in effect until results show consistent readings in the good range. The area will be tested again on Monday, February 4.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has been notified of the rise in bacteria levels for review and follow-up.

The Florida Department of Health in Martin County conducts weekly water sampling at four sites along the St. Lucie River including the Roosevelt Bridge, Sandsprit Park, Leighton Park and the Stuart Sandbar.

Martin County beach sites are sampled every other week.


**About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](http://www.phac-acgih.gc.ca), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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