

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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For Immediate Release

## **BACTERIA LEVELS ELEVATED AT LEIGHTON PARK IN PALM CITY**

### ***Residents urged to avoid contact with river water in that area***

(Martin County, FL) An advisory is now in effect for the river water near Leighton Park by the old Palm City Bridge. Results from samples taken yesterday show levels above the acceptable range for 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 acceptable range. The areas will be tested again on Monday, September 15.

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.

River and beach water sample results can be viewed at:  
[http://www.floridahealth.gov/CHD/Martin/Beach\\_and\\_River\\_Sampling.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/CHD/Martin/Beach_and_River_Sampling.html)

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