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BACTERIA LEVELS ELEVATED AT SANDSPRIT PARK AND STUART CAUSEWAY

Residents urged to avoid contact with waters in those areas

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Martin County, FL – An advisory is now in effect for the waters near Sandsprit Park and the Stuart Causeway. Results from samples taken yesterday 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 areas will be tested again on Monday, September 25.

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.

River and beach water sample results can be viewed at:

<http://martin.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/environmental-health/beach-and-river-sampling/results/index.html>

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