

June 16, 2016

## **BACTERIA LEVELS ELEVATED AT THE ROOSEVELT BRIDGE AND LEIGHTON PARK**

***Residents urged to avoid contact with waters in those areas***



### **Contact:**

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

Leighton Park has remained under an advisory since January of this year.

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, June 20.

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

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