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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**For more information, please contact:**  
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## Pinellas County Saltwater Beach Advisory and Warning

ST. PETERSBURG-An advisory has been issued for *the beach area located on the west end of the Gandy Boulevard Causeway (Pinellas County Side)*, based on the marine water bacterial indicator that has been recommended by the EPA.

This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

The Pinellas County Health Department has been conducting saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 14 sites once every two weeks since July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000 and weekly since August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002, through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. The water samples are being analyzed for enteric bacteria (both fecal coliform and enterococci), that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals, and which may cause human disease, infections or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets, wildlife, and human sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant beach water quality problems. Results from tests conducted on 9/9/2004.

Site	Beach	Beach	Fecal Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococci	Enterococci	Enterococci Geometric Mean	Enterococci Geometric Mean
#	Name	Location	CFU per 100 ml*	Water Quality*	CFU per 100 ml**	Water Quality**	Mean Average**	Water Quality**
SP-12	Gandy Blvd. Beach	Pinellas County	880	Poor	244	Poor	28.79	Good

Water quality classifications are based upon:

- (1) \* Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) adopted Criteria for Surface Water Quality Classifications (Chapter 62-302.530, Florida Administrative Code), which establishes a fecal coliform standard of no more than **400** colony forming units per 100 milliliters for 10% of the samples; and,
- (2) \*\* United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended standard for enterococci of no more than **104** colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water, or a geometric mean of the five most current weekly samples of no more than **35** colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 538-7277 ext. 1111, or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website ([www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us), click on the drop down arrow next to "-Choose Subject-" and then select "Beach Water Quality").

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