



Jeb Bush
Governor

M. Rony Francois, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary, Department of Health

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

For Immediate Release:
November 18, 2005

For more information, please contact:
Jeannine Mallory
Telephone: 727-824-6908

Pinellas County Saltwater Beach Advisory Lifted

ST. PETERSBURG-The 11/10/05 advisory issued for *the beach area located along the Gandy Causeway (Pinellas County Side)*, has been **lifted** based on the marine water bacterial indicator that has been recommended by the EPA.

The Pinellas County Health Department has been conducting saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 14 sites once every two weeks since July 31st, 2000 and weekly since August 5th, 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 11/17/2005.

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. Causeway	Pinellas County	10	Good	1	Good	25.81	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 **399** 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. 1134, or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website www.doh.state.fl.us, click on the drop down arrow next to "-Choose Subject-" and then select "Beach Water Quality").

--XX--