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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pinellas County Saltwater Beach Advisory
NORTH SHORE BEACH IN ST. PETERSBURG CLOSED**

The Pinellas County Health Department has issued an advisory for the water along North Shore Beach in St. Petersburg, based on the marine water bacterial indicator recommended by the EPA.

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

The Pinellas County Health Department conducts saltwater beach testing through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (both fecal coliform and enterococci), that normally inhabit the intestinal tracts 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 storm water run-off, pets, wildlife and sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant beach water quality problems.

Water testing results from tests conducted 8/16/2007 at North Shore Beach are as follows:

| Fecal Coliform | Fecal Coliform | Enterococci | Enterococci | Enterococci Geometric Mean | Enterococci Geometric Mean |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| CFU per 100 ml* | Water Quality* | CFU per 100 ml** | Water Quality** | Mean Average** | Water Quality** |
| 50 | Good | 296 | Poor | 38.49 | Poor |

Water quality classifications are based upon:

* 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,

** 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 35.99 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water.

For more information about the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program, visit the Florida Department of Health's website at www.doh.state.fl.us/com , click on "Floridians and Visitors" icon, then scroll to the "Food, Water, Air, Land" section and select "Beach Water Quality."

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