

Virginia Water Monitoring Council

Special Announcement: Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week, May 18-24, 2009

In recognition of Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week, May 18-24, 2009, here are some sources of information that may be of interest:

1.) Beach Monitoring in Virginia

Bacteria levels in beach water are monitored at 47 public beaches on the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean during the swimming season (May-September). For links to information about current swimming advisories and monitored beaches in Virginia, beach advisory and monitoring data, links to local beaches, local health department contacts for beach monitoring, and more see

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/BeachMonitoring/>
<<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/BeachMonitoring/>>

Remember, you can help to protect your health while swimming by taking these simple steps:

- Observe Swimming Advisories and do not enter the water at a beach under an advisory
- Swim well away from fishing piers, pipes and drains, as well as water flowing from storm drains onto a beach.
- Do not dispose of trash, pet waste, or dirty diapers on a beach.

2.) "Beaches and Bacteria" -- See attached PDF document or go to

<http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/watercentral.html>

<<http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/watercentral.html>> (*Virginia Water Central*, August 2004 Science Behind the News. Published by the Virginia Water Resources Research Center). This article covers:

- The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act
- Virginia's bacteria standards
- The types of indicator organisms monitored at Virginia's beaches
- How people responsible for beach closures/advisories decide what is safe
- The difference between a beach advisory and a beach closure
- What it means to close a beach preemptively
- Bacteria Source Tracking

3.) "Safely Enjoying Virginia's Natural Waters" -- This brochure, published by the Virginia Department of Health, covers topics such as:

- Why Avoid Natural Water After a Heavy Rain?
- How is Health Risk from Natural Waters Determined?
- What You Can Do To Protect Yourself

See the attached PDF file or go to

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/BeachMonitoring/>
<<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/BeachMonitoring/>> (also available in Spanish).

4.) Requirements of public pools and spas in Virginia. Test results and water quality standards for public pools and spas must be posted in a location where it is readily observable by the users of the swimming facility. For more information, see <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/Food/Regulations/PostingWaterQuality/index.htm#PostingRequirements>

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Pools

		Water Quality Standards	
Free Residual Disinfectant		Minimum	Maximum
Chlorine		1.0 ppm	3.0 ppm
Bromine		2.0 ppm	4.0 ppm
pH		7.2	7.8
Temperature	none	104°F / 40°C (Heated Pools Only)	

Spas

		Water Quality Standards	
Free Residual Disinfectant		Minimum	Maximum
Chlorine		2.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
Bromine		2.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
pH		7.2	7.8
Temperature	none	104°F / 40°C	

4.) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

-- Healthy Swimming web page: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/>
<<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/>> -- This site is for swimmers, pool operators, and public health professionals to provide background information about recreational water illnesses and ways to prevent these illnesses. New for 2009:

Links to New Videos; Recommendations for Preventing Pool Chemical--Associated Injuries (PDF, 59 KB); Healthy Swimming Brochure; CPSC: Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (February 2009) and more.

Learn information on Drowning Prevention: Quick Tips (PDF, 62 KB); Safe Boating; Sun Exposure, Sunburn, and Skin Cancer; and more.

Information provided to the members of the Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC). To learn more about the Council, see our website at <http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/vwmc/> <<http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/vwmc/>> or contact Jane Walker at the address below. If you have water-monitoring related news of regional or statewide interest, send it to Jane Walker and ask that it be distributed to the VWMC membership.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the VWMC to support these information updates and other VWMC activities. Make checks payable to: "Virginia Tech Foundation" and on the memo portion of the check, include "Fund #872802." Mail contributions to Jane Walker, VWMC administrator at the address below.

<<Rec Waters.pdf>> <<Beaches & Bacteria 8.2004.pdf>>
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