

September 15, 2017

DOH-BREVARD ISSUES PRECAUTIONARY SWIM ADVISORY

Avoid contact with contaminated water

Contact: ESF 8 Desk 321-637-6675



Tallahassee, Fla.— Out of an abundance of caution and in order to protect the health and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors, the **Florida Department of Health in Brevard County has issued a precautionary swim advisory for all public beaches** due to potential effects on water quality related to Hurricane Irma. **At this time, swimming is not recommended in areas that have not been tested since the storm.**

The department has deployed three environmental health strike teams statewide to augment local environmental health staff conduct testing to determine the water quality at these locations. As results are available, data is updated on DOH's website [here](#). DOH-Brevard anticipates all results to be complete by September 27, 2017.

Until results are available from testing conducted after the storm, you should assume that water contact may pose an increased risk of disease, particularly for immunocompromised individuals.

Additionally, residents should avoid contact with floodwaters. Flood water may contain fecal matter from sewage systems, agricultural and industrial waste and septic tanks.

There may also be unseen hazards under the water in areas that received storm surge or freshwater flooding. Flood waters can also mask debris, downed power lines and other hazards.

Basic hygiene is very important during this emergency period. Always wash your hands with soap and water after helping in cleanup activities and after handling items contaminated by floodwater or sewage. To determine if your area has an active boil water notice, check with your utility company or click [here](#).

If you have open cuts or sores exposed to the floodwater, keep them as clean as possible by washing them with soap and disinfected or boiled than cooled water. Apply antibiotic cream to reduce the risk of infection. If a wound or sore develops redness, swelling or drainage, see a physician.

Do not allow children to play in floodwater. They can be exposed to water contaminated with fecal matter.

Do not allow children to play with toys that have been in floodwater until the toys have been disinfected. Use 1/4 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water to disinfect toys and other items.

For further information, please contact your local county health department at www.brevardeh.com or visit www.floridahealth.gov or www.FloridaDisaster.org.

During severe weather and other emergencies, you can count on active alerts from the department's official social media accounts. One of the fastest ways to receive official and accurate health-related information is to monitor [@HealthyFla](https://twitter.com/HealthyFla) on Twitter and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyFla).

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](http://www.nacac.org), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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