

News release

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Beach monitoring program seeks public input *Comments due by June 14*

Oregon Health Authority's Beach Monitoring program wants to hear from the public regarding its list of proposed monitoring sites for the 2012 summer season.

The Beach Monitoring program tests water quality at selected Oregon beaches and notifies the public when it detects elevated levels of bacteria. The program also periodically reviews test results as well as beach-use data to best protect public health.

The program prioritizes beaches for testing based on these factors:

- Presence of pollution hazards;
- Data showing elevated bacteria;
- How the beach is used by the public;
- The proximity of creeks, pipes and outflows that may contribute to increased bacteria levels; and
- Public recommendations.

(more)

Public input is an important part of this decision-making process. A limited number of beaches can be tested each summer. Visit the Beach Monitoring program's [website](#) at www.healthoregon.org/beach to find the proposed and candidate lists of summer 2012 beach monitoring sites, as well as the "Oregon Beach Monitoring Program Summer 2012 Evaluation of Beach Sites" report.

Comments on the site lists will be taken through 5 p.m., June 14. Comments may be emailed to beach.health@state.or.us, faxed to 971-673-0457, or mailed to Beach Program, 800 NE Oregon St., Suite 640, Portland, OR 97232.

Other participating state agencies include the Department of Environmental Quality and the Parks and Recreation Department. For additional information or to sign up to receive health advisories by email, visit the Beach Monitoring program's [website](#).

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