

News release

August 29, 2013

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Health advisory lifted for water contact at Cannon, Tolovana and Short Sand beaches

Testing shows fecal bacteria levels have subsided

Public health advisories for contact with marine water at Cannon Beach and Tolovana Beach in Clatsop County and Short Sand Beach in Tillamook County were lifted today by the Oregon Health Authority. The advisories were issued Wednesday after water samples showed higher-than-normal levels of fecal bacteria in ocean waters.

Results from subsequent samples taken by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality showed contamination had subsided, and the water no longer poses a higher-than-normal risk associated with water contact activities. However, officials recommend staying out of large pools of water and runoff because these are areas where increased bacteria from fecal matter can build up.

State officials continue to encourage other recreational activities at all Oregon beaches, suggesting only that water contact be avoided when advisories are in effect.

(more)

Since 2003, state officials have used a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to monitor popular Oregon beaches and make timely reports to the public about elevated levels of fecal bacteria. Oregon state agencies participating in this program are Oregon Public Health, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, contact the Beach Monitoring Program at 971-673-0400 or www.healthoregon.org/beach; also contact the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.

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