



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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May 16, 2020

Omar Johnson
West Tisbury Board of Health
1059 State Rd., 1st Floor
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575

RE: Contract Laboratory Support for 2020 Bathing Beach Season, Beaches Required to Post After One Exceedance, and Release of Annual Report

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Each year, the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health provides information pertaining to local beach testing in advance of the summer beach season. This year, the state of emergency in Massachusetts and orders issued by the Governor may affect the start of the beach season and its operations. When beaches are allowed to open, there may be further restrictions and conditions on how the beaches may operate to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The following provides information about the standard beach water quality testing requirements when beaches are allowed to open.

Contract Laboratory Support

According to our records, West Tisbury has 2 weekly and 1 monthly marine beach testing sites. Please review these numbers and let us know by June 1, 2020 if this information needs updating.

It is the responsibility of the municipality to conduct sampling in accordance with the required protocol and to preserve each sample until it is turned over to the laboratory. DPH has contracted with Wampanoag Environmental Laboratory to analyze the samples for your community again this year. Routine samples collected between June 15 and September 4, 2020 will be eligible for this analysis, and the laboratory will bill DPH directly. If additional samples are required because of bacterial exceedances, the additional cost will need to be paid by your municipality. We encourage you to contact Andrew Jacobs at Wampanoag Environmental Laboratory at (508) 645-2903 in order to coordinate the delivery of the sterile sample bottles and pick-up of the samples.

The laboratory is required in its contract with DPH to electronically report sample results to DPH via the bathing beaches website as well as directly to the local health departments. The laboratory will also enter information from the field data form, such as field observations, days since last rain, and water temperature, via the website. Therefore, the field data form needs to

be filled out in its entirety before delivery to the laboratory. These forms and other information are also available through the DPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/beaches.

Beaches Required to Post After One Exceedance

At the vast majority of beaches statewide, if a sample exceeds water quality standards, then posting is not required provided that a resample taken the day following the initial sample collection is in compliance with water quality standards. However, beaches with less than four years of complete data and those with a history of elevated bacteria levels will be required to post after each instance of elevated bacteria. A "history" is defined as one or more consecutive exceedances in two or more of the last four beach seasons. If a beach in your community is required to post after every exceedance during the 2020 beach season, it will appear on the attached list.

Release of Annual Report

As you know, the data you submit each swim season form the basis of the DPH beach water quality report, which we are required by statute to produce each year. This report, funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, summarizes beach water quality data collected at marine and freshwater bathing beaches throughout the Commonwealth. The latest annual report, *2019 Massachusetts Beach Testing Results*, will be available to the general public on May 22, 2020 on the DPH website, <https://www.mass.gov/lists/annual-beach-reports>. We encourage you to download a copy.

Thank you for your continued assistance and cooperation in performing the regulatory tasks associated with monitoring beach water quality and protecting public health in Massachusetts. If you would like to discuss these items, or if you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the bathing beaches staff. Michael Beattie can be reached at (617) 624-5757 and Irena Draksic at (617) 634-2432.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Nascarella, Ph.D.
Director, Environmental Toxicology Program
Bureau of Environmental Health

cc: Andrew Jacobs, Wampanoag Environmental Laboratory
Jana Ferguson, Director, Bureau of Environmental Health
Logan Bailey, Recreational Water Quality Section Leader, BEH/ETP

Beaches required to post after one exceedance in 2020

Due to either a history of multi-day elevated bacteria levels or a lack of complete data for the last four beach seasons, the beaches listed below are required to post an advisory following a sample with an elevated bacteria level. Please note that beaches opening for the first time in 2020 may not appear on this list, but are subject to the same requirement.

City/Town	Beach	Marine/Fresh
Barnstable	Regency Drive Owners' Association	Fresh
	West Beach Club	Marine
Becket	Camp Lenox	Fresh
Boston	Constitution: Middle (DCR)	Marine
	Constitution: North site (DCR)	Marine
	Constitution: Rec Center (DCR)	Marine
	Malibu (DCR)	Marine
	Tenean (DCR)	Marine
Bourne	Queen Sewell Pond	Fresh
	Scraggy Beach: South Causeway	Marine
Freetown	Assonet Bay Shores	Fresh
	Gramp Deane (Assonet River)	Fresh
Hinsdale	Dan Duquette Sports Academy	Fresh
Lynn	Kings Beach at Eastern Ave (DCR)	Marine
	Kings Beach at Kimball Road (DCR)	Marine
	Kings Beach at Pierce Road (DCR)	Marine
Milton	Cunningham Pond	Fresh
	Houghton's Pond (DCR)	Fresh
North Andover	Stevens Pond	Fresh
Otis	Camp Overflow Beach	Fresh
Plymouth	Plymouth Estates	Fresh
	West Wind SA: Big Sandy (1)	Fresh
	West Wind SA: Big Sandy (2)	Fresh
	West Wind SA: Wall Pond	Fresh
	Wind-in-the-Pines Camp	Fresh

Provincetown	Atlantic Avenue	Marine
	Ryder Street	Marine
	Town Landing (west of Coast Guard)	Marine
Quincy	Wollaston @ Channing Street (DCR)	Marine
	Wollaston @ Milton Street (DCR)	Marine
	Wollaston @ Rice Road (DCR)	Marine
	Wollaston @ Sachem Street (DCR)	Marine
Rutland	Cool Sandy Beach	Fresh
Saugus	Peckham Pond @Camp Nihan	Fresh
Scituate/Cohasset	Bassings Beach	Marine
Sturbridge	Yogi Bear Campground	Fresh
Taunton	Campers Beach / Middle Pond (DCR)	Fresh
Templeton	Pinewood Shores	Fresh
Truro	Sutton Place East	Marine
Tyringham	Cooper Creek HOA	Fresh
West Tisbury	Ice House Pond	Fresh
Westport	Knubble Beach	Marine
Winchester	Shannon Beach (DCR)	Fresh
Winthrop	Donovans	Marine