



2415 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD • MOUND, MN 55364-1668 • PH: 952-472-0600 • FAX: 952-472-0620 • WWW.CITYOFMOUND.COM

WHY IS THE BEACH CLOSED?

Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria live in the digestive systems of humans and other warm-blooded animals. Therefore, they are found in sewage and other wastewater. Most strains are not harmful, but some are, and they can indicate the presence of other disease-causing bacteria.

Hennepin County Public Health provides the testing services for the City Beaches in Mound and other communities throughout Hennepin County. The County determines when closure is necessary to protect public health from E. coli present in the water based on weekly water samplings. Hennepin County is responsible for determining the “all clear” to reopen the beach based on subsequent testing results. The City follows Hennepin County Public Health guidelines and mandates with respect to water quality and beach closures.

No one can guarantee the quality of natural bodies of water. The sampling that the County conducts indicates the water quality only on the particular day the sample was collected and at that specific location. It is recommended that residents not enter the water if it is very murky, if it has an odor or if there has been a heavy rainfall within the past 24 hours. Beach patrons should not drink the water and should not enter the water if they have any open sores or skin infections, or are experiencing diarrhea.

If you or your loved one is exposed to E. coli, here are some symptoms to watch for: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, headache and low-grade fever. Skin rashes and earaches also may be experienced. No Current treatments can cure the infection. Rest and drinking clear liquids to prevent dehydration are recommended to treat mild symptoms. Avoid taking anti-diarrheal medication as it slows the digestive system and prevents your body from getting rid of the toxins. Antibiotics are not recommended as they don't appear to help treat the infection. Consult your doctor if serious symptoms arise.

The Centers for Disease Control has the following recommendations for staying healthy while enjoying the beach:

- Wait 24 hours to swim after a heavy rainfall.
- Shower after being at the beach.
- Don't mouth or swallow water.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before eating and after using the bathroom.
- Don't swim if you're sick, or have a weakened immune system.
- Put tight-fitting rubber or plastic pants on children who are wearing diapers and those who are not toilet-trained.
- Take your children for frequent bathroom breaks.
- Don't attract waterfowl to the beach by feeding ducks, geese, gulls, etc.
- Pick up your trash.
- If you boat, properly dispose of waste.

For more information, or to report water-related illnesses, please contact Hennepin County Public Health at 612-543-5200.