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MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

DATE: August 6, 2020

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Port Huron's Lighthouse Beach E. Coli Advisory Lifted

After continued water quality monitoring at Lighthouse Beach in Port Huron test results show water quality conditions, which necessitated the E. coli advisory on August 5, 2020, have improved and show compliance with Michigan's surface water bathing beach rules. The St. Clair County Health Department has lifted the beach advisory for Lighthouse Beach in Port Huron. All beaches are open at this time.

The Environmental Health Division monitors eight public beaches weekly for the presence of E. coli bacteria. In order to remain open, beaches must meet Michigan's full body contact standards of 300 E. coli bacteria per 100 ml of water.

E. coli bacteria is found in the digestive systems of warm-blooded animals, including humans, and can indicate the presence of viruses and pathogens that cause illnesses. Elevated E.coli levels are possible after a rain storm or strong winds because bacteria are carried in storm water runoff into waterways or stirred up from waves.

The SCCHD encourages residents to keep themselves informed about current beach conditions. Sheri Faust, Environmental Educator said, "Being aware of wind and weather conditions at the beach is part of protecting your health when swimming in open water. If we have experienced a recent heavy rainfall, high winds, or if the water appears cloudy or turbid, individuals may choose not to swim that day."

Current advisories for St. Clair County's public beaches are shared on the SCCHD's 24-hour Water Quality Hotline at 877-504-SWIM, "St. Clair County Beaches" Facebook page, the "MyBeachCast" app, and Michigan BeachGuard website at www.egle.state.mi.us/beach/.

For more information, visit www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/health/bathing.aspx or contact our Environmental Health Division at (810) 987-5306. Follow us on social media @scchdmi.

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