

## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY (UPDATE)

July 21, 2016

### **Island Lake Crista Camp Swimming beach re-opened**

*Kitsap Public Health District still investigating cause of high E.coli levels*

KITSAP COUNTY, WA—The swimming beach at Island Lake Crista Camp is now open.

The Kitsap Public Health District closed the camp and Island Lake County Park swimming beaches on Wed., July 13 due to unusually high E.coli levels and staff continue to investigate possible sources of the pollution. No illnesses have been reported to the Health District at this time.

While the bacteria levels in the lake are currently below the Washington State Department of Health threshold for closure, bacteria levels can fluctuate in lakes rapidly, and it is possible that additional closures will be announced until the source of the bacteria is identified.

There are always health risks when recreating in pools or natural waters and people should avoid water activities where water could be swallowed or get in the mouth, nose or eyes. After swimming or playing in water, people should wash their hands in warm soap and water, or shower if possible. The risk of illness from a recreational water illness is greatest for young children, the elderly, or anyone with a compromised immune system.

Routine lake monitoring is scheduled for next Tuesday, July 26. The Health District will provide updates when conditions change at [kitsappublichealth.org/beaches](http://kitsappublichealth.org/beaches), and through electronic alerts ([kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe](http://kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe)).

Kitsap Public Health monitors 26 lake swimming areas and 15 salt water swimming beaches for algae and bacteria levels to help keep Kitsap swimmers safe.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) promotes these easy and effective steps all of us can take each time we swim:

- Keep the pee, poop, and sweat out of the water!
- Don't swim if you are sick or have diarrhea or if you have been sick in the last 48 hours.
- Shower before you get in the water.
- Don't swallow the water.
- Every hour—everyone out!
- Take kids on bathroom breaks.
- Use swim diapers.
- Check diapers frequently, and change them in a bathroom or diaper-changing area to keep germs away from the water.

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For more information, please contact:

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