

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

August 9, 2016

Island Lake County Park swimming beach re-opened

Crista Camp swimming beach at south end of lake remains closed

KITSAP COUNTY, WA— The swimming beach at Island Lake County Park re-opened today, but the Island Lake Crista Camp swimming beach at the south end of the lake remains closed at due to high levels of E.coli bacteria.

Both swimming beaches have been closed since July 27—the second closure this summer—due to unusually high E.coli levels. The Kitsap Public Health District has not yet identified the source of the pollution.

No illnesses have been reported to the District.

The District is doing a thorough bacterial investigation on the lake to determine the source of the pollution. High levels of E.coli bacteria can be caused by a number of things, including but not limited to, wildlife and pets in the water, people swimming when they are sick, a large number of swimmers, and infants swimming without swim diapers. However, because of the unusually high bacterial levels in the lake—in some cases 20 times higher than the closure level—the Health District is investigating other possible sources.

While the bacteria levels at the Island Lake County Park swimming beach 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 as Kitsap Public Health continues to investigate the source of the bacteria. The swimming beach at Island Lake Crista Camp will remain closed until bacteria levels drop below closure levels at the south end of the lake.

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 and faces 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.

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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. Updates are provided on [Facebook](#), on-line at kitsappublichealth.org/beaches, and through electronic alerts (kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe). To report a waterborne illness other than swimmer's itch, the public is asked to call Kitsap Public Health at (360) 337-5235 or submit information on-line at www.kitsappublichealth.org.

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.
- Wash your hands and face after swimming - or take a shower.
- 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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