

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

July 27, 2016

Island Lake swimming beaches temporarily closed again *High levels of E.coli prompt second closure this month*

KITSAP COUNTY, WA— Today the Kitsap Public Health District temporarily closed the swimming beaches at Island Lake County Park and Island Lake Crista Camp for the second time this month due to high levels of E. coli bacteria in the water. Residents who live on Island Lake are encouraged to stay out of the water until further notice.

Results from water samples collected on Tues., July 26, show unusually high levels of E. coli bacteria. Results show E.coli levels 10 times higher than the closure level established by the Washington State Department of Health.

No illnesses have been reported to Kitsap Public Health at this time. Kitsap Public Health posted swimming area closure signs for both swimming beaches, which will re-open when bacteria levels drop below the closure levels.

The District is unable to confirm if the source of the E.coli is the same as the levels that prompted the closure earlier this month. After the first Island Lake closure on July 13, the District began 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, the Health District is investigating other possible sources.

Since there is an increased risk of getting sick the public is advised to avoid all contact with the water in Island Lake until further notice. This means no swimming, wading, or types of water play where water could be swallowed or get in the mouth, nose or eyes. The risk of 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.

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