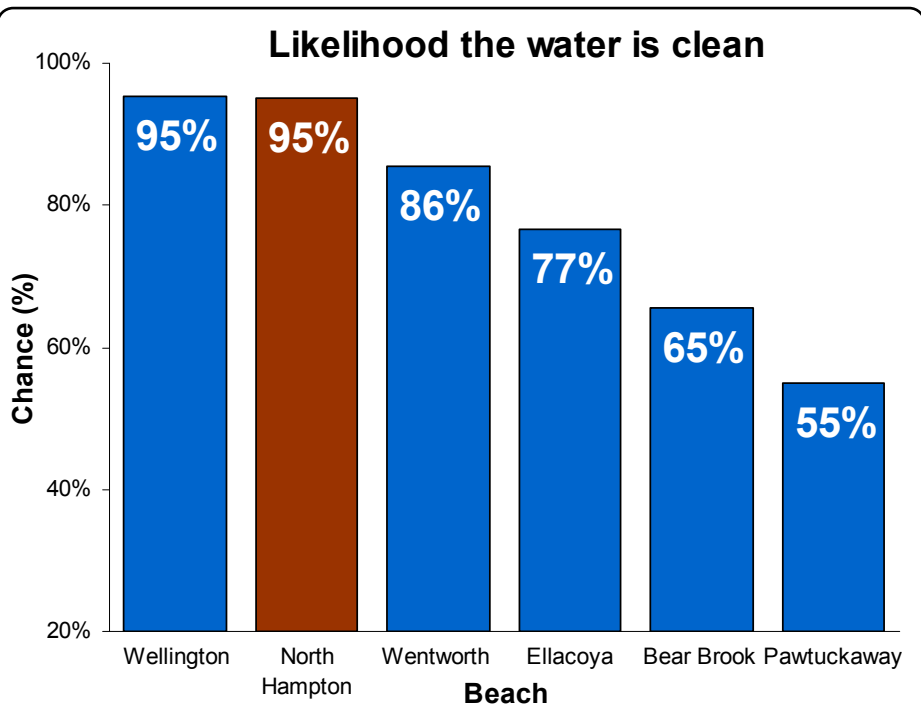




Beach Sampling Program

To protect the public from possible illness while swimming, each summer the NH Beach Program monitors water from 193 beaches for fecal bacteria. When fecal bacteria levels exceed state standards, harmful organisms are likely growing in the water making the water unsafe for swimming.

When fecal bacteria levels are high, DES issues an advisory. Signs are posted at beach entry points. Alerts are placed on the DES webpage. The water is resampled daily until the bacteria levels are below state standards and the advisory is removed at that time.



How clean has the beach been over time? By comparing how many fecal bacteria samples have been below the state standard with all samples collected at a beach, a prediction can be made. At North Hampton State Beach, out of every 100 samples collected, 95 are expected to be good. Compared to five popular state park beaches, Kingston State Beach is more likely to have clean samples than all but Wellington State Park.

Everyone can help keep beaches clean by:

- Cleaning up after your pet and disposing of feces properly
- Putting swim diapers on babies; disposing of diapers properly
- Maintaining your home's septic system
- Reducing and managing stormwater run-off

MONITORED

From Memorial Day to Labor Day the water at this beach is routinely tested for the presence of fecal bacteria

THE MOST RECENT SAMPLES ANALYZED MEET STATUTORY BACTERIA STANDARDS FOR BEACHES

All current advisories posted at www.des.nh.gov
Click "beach advisory" in left column

For results and other questions:
NHDES Beach Program

193 New Hampshire beaches display this sign indicating participation in the DES Beach Inspection Program

Sampling at North Hampton State Beach

Owner: NH Division of Parks & Recreation

Location: Rt. 1B, North Hampton

Sampling Visits Each Season: 26

Samples Collected since 2003: 946

Samples Above State Standard: 45

Advisories from 2003-2012: 7

Advisories in 2013: 4

Beach Advisory Postings

The NH Beach Program posts advisories discouraging contact with the water. Advisories DO NOT close a beach. The decision to close a beach is left with the beach owner.

Current advisories posted at www.des.nh.gov. At left, click on:

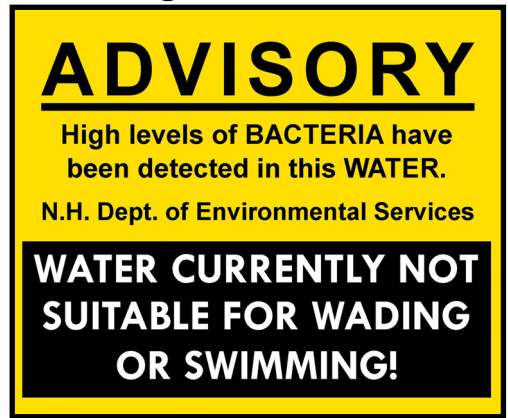


Beach Advisory

Beaches near North Hampton Beach with Advisories in 2013

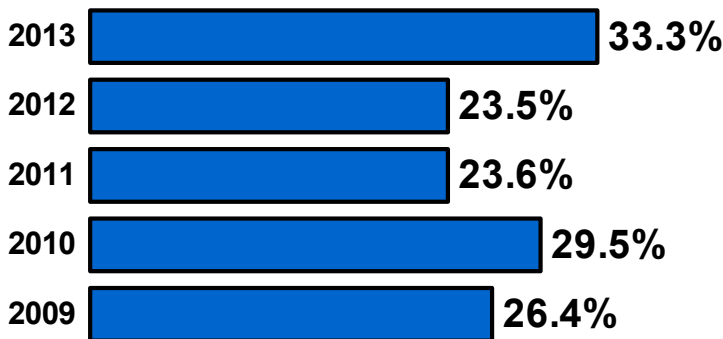
| Town | Beach | Fecal Bacteria Advisories | Cyanobacteria Advisories |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Kingston | Great Pond Association Beach | 1 | 0 |
| North Hampton | Bass Beach | 1 | 0 |
| | North Hampton State Beach | 4 | 0 |
| Salem | Hedgehog Beach | 1 | 0 |
| | Second Street Beach | 1 | 0 |
| | Arlington Pond Beach | 2 | 0 |

Sign posted when water has high bacteria levels

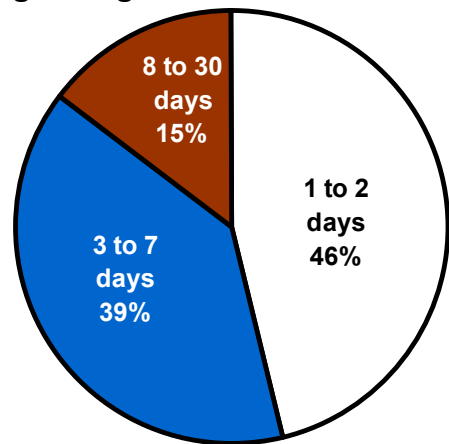


Statewide Beach Results

Percent of Beach with 1 or more Advisories



Average Length of 2013 Beach Advisories

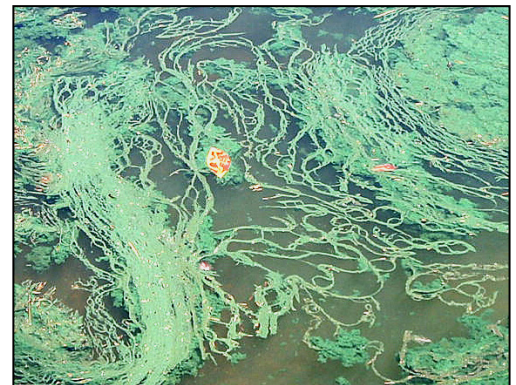


During the past 5 years, about one-fourth of all NH beaches has at least one advisory in the summer months.

Almost half of all advisories were two days or fewer. Only 13 were longer than 8 days.

Avoid SLIME at the beach!

If you see green or blue-green clouds, clumps or slime in the water, stay out! Caused by excess nutrients from fertilizer, stormwater or animal feces, what looks like "slime" could be cyanobacteria. In large amounts, cyanobacteria can produce toxins harmful to animals and humans. The beach program posts advisories to warn swimmers of potential problems. Contact the Beach Program to report a sighting.



Stay connected with the Beach Program

Sonya Carlson
Program Coordinator
(603) 271-0698
beaches@des.nh.gov



Select "beach advisories" at
<http://des.nh.gov/media/enews/index.htm>

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