

NH SWIMMING BEACHES AT A GLANCE

Weirs Beach, Laconia

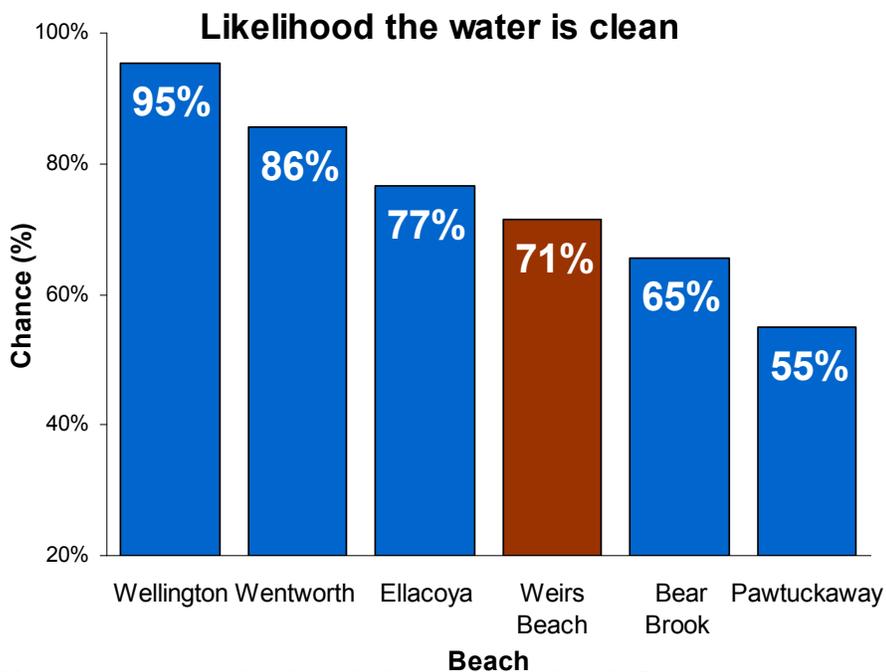
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov



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 Weirs Beach, out of every 100 samples collected, 71 are expected to be good. Compared to five popular state park beaches, Weirs Beach is more likely to have cleaner samples than Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway State Park Beaches

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 Weirs Beach

Owner: Town of Laconia

Waterbody: Lake Winnepesaukee

Sampling Visits Each Season: 3

Samples Collected since 2003: 266

Samples Above State Standard: 76

Advisories from 2003-2012: **15**

Advisories in 2013: **2**

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 Weirs Beach with Advisories in 2013

Town	Beach	Fecal Bacteria Advisories	Cyanobacteria Advisories
Franklin	Lagace Beach	1	0
Gilford	Gilford Town Beach	1	0
	Ellacoya RV & State Park Beaches	4	0
Gilmanton	Crystal Lake Beach	1	0
Laconia	Bond Beach	1	0
	Cove Beach at Opeechee Park	1	0
	Bartlett Beach	2	0
	Weirs Beach	2	0
Northfield	Glines Park Beach	2	1
Tuftonborough	19 Mile Bay Public Beach	1	0
Wolfborough	Albee Beach	1	0
	Wentworth State Park Beach	1	0

Sign posted when water has high bacteria levels

ADVISORY

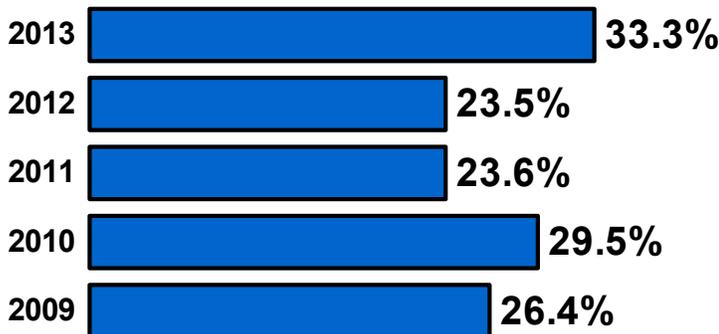
High levels of BACTERIA have been detected in this WATER.

N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services

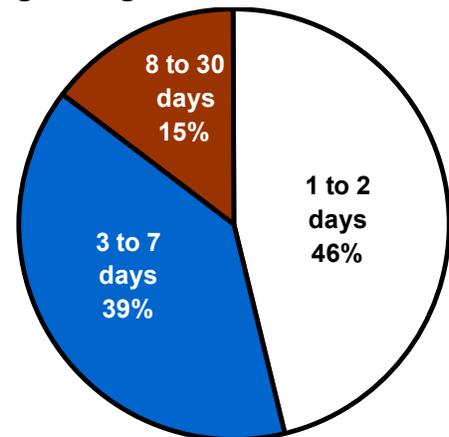
WATER CURRENTLY NOT SUITABLE FOR WADING OR SWIMMING!

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>

Follow @NHDES_Beaches

http://twitter.com/NHDES_Beaches