



Atlantic County

Department of Human Services

Dennis Levinson
County Executive

Patricia Diamond
Department Head

609/645-5921 FAX: 645-5904
TDD: 348-5551

Division of Public Health
609/645-5935 FAX: 645-5931

Community Health/Clinical Services
609/645-5933 FAX: 272-8490

Environmental Health
609/645-5971 FAX: 645-5923

Substance Abuse Services
609/645-5932 FAX: 645-5890

Health Planning/Information/Education
609/645-5853 FAX: 645-2857

May 17, 2019

Mayor Gary Giberson
Port Republic City Hall
143 Main Street
Port Republic, N.J. 08241

Dear Mayor Giberson:

Beginning May 13, the Division of Public Health commenced its annual sampling program for water quality at the public bathing beach in your community. Samples are collected and analyzed weekly for *Enterococcus* and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria on Monday or Tuesday through Labor Day. We will call the town clerk each week with the sampling results. Written results will also be forwarded to the clerk. Enclosed is the first week of sampling results.

In years past, the beach was sampled for fecal coliform. In 2018, the New Jersey Recreational Bathing code (N.J.A.C. 8:26-1) was changed that now required sampling for *Escherichia coli* for tidal fresh water. After consultation with representatives from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, it was decided to sample for *Enterococcus* due to the salinity content of Nacote Creek. For 2019, we have decided to test for both organisms but use the *Enterococcus* standard (104 cfu/100 mL) for any advisories and / or closures if needed.

Please keep in mind that one of the main sources of excessive bacteria in natural bathing waters is nonpoint-source runoff from the storm drains and the land area around the bathing water. The impact of nonpoint-source runoff can be reduced by applying "best management practices". You are urged to incorporate such practices into your facility's maintenance program. Although best management practices cannot guarantee that Nacote Creek will be free of excessive bacterial concentrations, they often can help to prevent such problems from occurring.

Best management practices particularly applicable to natural recreational bathing facilities such as yours include:

1. Prompt removal of beach litter
2. Using lids on trash receptacles
3. Cleaning storm drains and catch basins



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The first two practices help to control animal populations by limiting the availability of attractive food sources. This, in turn, reduces the accumulation of animal droppings containing bacteria around Nacote Creek. Cleaning of storm drains and catch basins controls accumulation of debris, laden with bacteria, which is released to surface waters during heavy rains.

Finally, please note that we will be conducting inspections again this year for compliance with the Public Recreational Bathing Code. A copy of the regulations is enclosed with this letter.

Please call Principal Registered Environmental Health Specialist Chris Chinnici at 645-5971 x4379 if you have any questions about water quality at your bathing beach or about the bathing code inspection.

Wishing you and your residents a safe and healthy summer!

Very truly yours,


Patricia Diamond
Department Head/Public Health Officer

C: Kimberly Campellone, Municipal Clerk
Gerald Del Rosso, County Administrator
J. Chris Chinnici, Principal Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Patrick Dillon, Environmental Health Coordinator