

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Oregon Public Health issues advisory for water contact at Bastendorff Beach in Coos County**

An Oregon Public Health advisory was issued today due to higher-than-normal levels of bacteria in ocean waters at Bastendorff Beach in Coos County.

Increased pathogen and fecal bacteria levels in ocean waters can come from both shore and inland sources such as storm water runoff, sewer overflows, failing septic systems and even animal waste from livestock, wildlife and pets.

Water samples indicate higher-than-normal levels of fecal bacteria, which can result in gastroenteritis, skin rashes, upper respiratory infections and other illnesses. Direct contact with the water should be avoided until the advisories are lifted, especially for children and the elderly, who may be more vulnerable to waterborne bacteria.

While these advisories are in effect at Bastendorff Beach, visitors should avoid wading in nearby creeks or in discolored water, and stay clear of water runoff flowing into the ocean. Even if there is no advisory in effect, officials recommend avoiding swimming in the ocean within 48 hours after a rainstorm.

State officials advise that the status of water contact advisories at beaches is subject to change. For the most recent information on advisories, please visit [www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/beaches/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/beaches/index.shtml) or call 877-290-6767.

Although state officials discourage water contact, they continue to encourage other recreational activities on these beaches because they pose no health risk even during an advisory. Neighboring beaches are not affected by this advisory.

For State Parks information, contact Robert Smith at 503-986-0665.  
 (more)

Since 2003 state officials have used a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant to monitor popular Oregon beaches and make timely reports to the public about elevated levels of fecal bacteria. Oregon state agencies participating in this program are Oregon Public Health, DEQ and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. More detailed test results are available at [www.healthoregon.org/beach](http://www.healthoregon.org/beach).

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