

If you see this sign posted at any Ventura County Beach:

- ✓ Stay out of the ocean for a least 50 yards on either side of the sign.
- ✓ There are levels of bacteria in the ocean water that may make you sick.



County of Ventura Environmental Health Division
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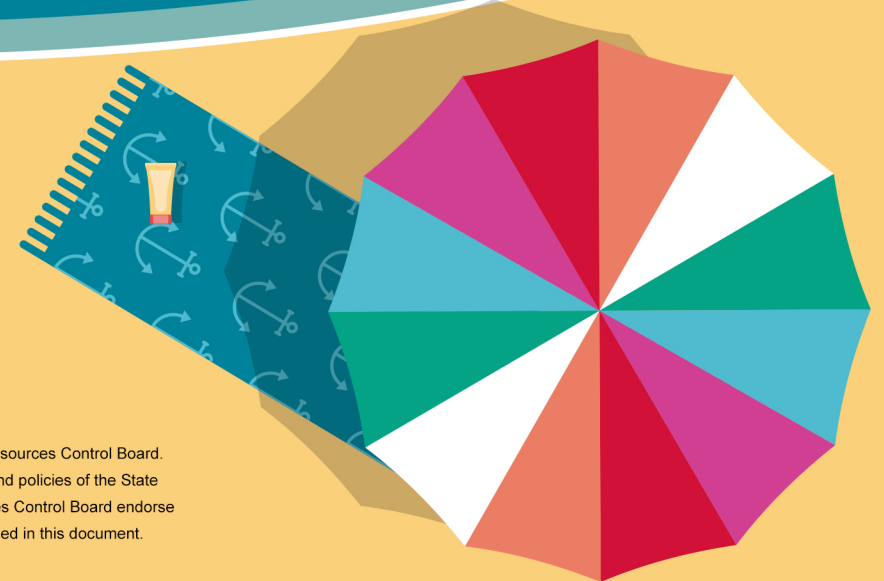
County of Ventura
Environmental Health Division

Ocean Water Quality

Monitoring Program



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VC Safe Beaches App



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Background

In September 1998, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors established a program within the Environmental Health Division (Division) to monitor the bacteriological quality of the ocean water at select Ventura County beach locations.

The Program

Division staff provide the public with current information about ocean water quality. Weekly ocean water samples are collected and tested for certain bacteria that indicate the potential for increased risk to human health. Sample results are compared with State standards to evaluate ocean water quality.

If a sample result fails to meet one or more these State standards, the beach is posted with signs warning the public to avoid body contact with the ocean water. The health warnings stay in effect for the beach until resampling indicates that the ocean water quality meets State standards.

Water quality information is updated weekly and is available on the Division's telephone hotline, website, smart phone application, and in press releases distributed to the media.



Common symptoms associated with exposure to ocean water of poor bacteriological quality include the following:

- vomiting, diarrhea, nausea
- fever, chills
- ear, nose, throat irritation
- skin rash

If you experience any of these symptoms, or otherwise become ill after visiting the beach, contact your doctor and the County Public Health Department, Communicable Disease Control Section (CDCS). Also, please complete the illness report form available on the OWQMP website.

The OWQMP's website includes up-to-date information on ocean water quality. It also contains regional and detailed maps of sampling locations, a list of beach postings, and weekly results for all beaches sampled.

Storm drain water and run-off can carry disease causing bacteria and other pollutants to the ocean. Therefore, as a general precaution, body contact with storm drain water, run-off, and the ocean near storm drains and outfalls should be avoided.

Permanent warning signs are posted at specific storm drains along the coast to remind the public of this potential risk.

The Division recommends avoiding storm water run-off and the ocean for a minimum of 72 hours after a significant rain event (0.2 inches or more).

Important OWQMP Phone Numbers and Website Information:

Telephone Hotline

805/662-6555

OWQMP Website

www.vcrma.org/envhealth/technical-services/ocean

OWQMP Coordinator

805/654-2813

Ventura County Public Health Department CDCS

805/981-5201

Storm Drains and Run-Off Water

Division staff are also responsible for alerting the public about possible health risks from contact with storm drain water and run-off that flows onto beaches from pipes, culverts, rivers, creeks and streams.

