



Contact Information

Is the Water Safe for Swimming Today?

Wildlife

Please do not feed waterfowl. Feeding can cause:

- Poor nutrition
- Spread of disease
- Aggressive behavior
- Overcrowding
- Beach and water pollution
- Delayed migration

Keep wildlife wild.



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Beach Water Quality Hotline
(updated twice daily):
(617) 626-4972
www.mass.gov/dcr/beach-water-quality



DCR Lakes & Ponds Program
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
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www.mass.gov/lakesandponds

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What Does the Red Flag Mean?



If you see this red flag at the beach, you should stay out of the water. Why?

A state law requires us to test the water weekly at public swimming beaches. When the test fails, we fly the red flag.

The red flag means our tests have found bacteria in the water at levels that may be unhealthy. Some bacteria can make you feel ill. Symptoms may include abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, or fever. We keep testing until our tests show that the water is clean for swimming.

Where do the bacteria come from?

Bacteria occur naturally in the waste of warm-blooded animals, such as humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife.

This flyer tells you what you can do to help keep our beaches clean and open for swimming.

Do Your Part: Keep Our Beaches Clean

Pets

Pick up after your pet. Use eco-friendly doggie bags (bags that will dissolve over time).

Throw pet waste in the trash. Do not leave it on the ground or throw it down a storm drain.

Why? Pet waste contains bacteria and pollutants that can make it unhealthy to swim, boat, and fish. When exposed to rain and melting snow, pet waste can wash into our lakes and ponds.



Humans

Put a fresh swim diaper on your infant before going in the water.



When nature calls, use the bath house or porta-potty, not the water or woods.

