

Advisory extended at Port Charlotte Beach

STAFF REPORT

The Charlotte County Health Department has extended an advisory warning residents about swimming at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex.

Water samples collected Monday from the beach still contained increased amounts of enteric bacteria (enterococci), higher than recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may originate from stormwater runoff, pets, wildlife and human sewage, according to a health department report.

The first advisory was issued April 15 for the area.

Health officials say the area should be considered a potential risk to bathers, as the bacteria may cause disease or infection. If ingested, the most common symptoms include rashes, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The Health Department has posted signs throughout the area since the advisory was announced.