

Beach bacteria

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Bacteria is keeping many people away from a popular Southwest Florida beach after 10-thousand gallons of raw sewage spilled into the water. The Charlotte County Health Department is asking you to stay out of the water at the Port Charlotte Beach for at least the rest of the weekend after a pipe broke and leaked sewage into the water. Fox 4 went to the beach to see how the closure is affecting businesses.

John Sader puts a lot of love into every hot dog he makes.

"We've been here at the Port Charlotte Beach for the last two years," said Sader. On Wednesday signs went up on the beach warning swimmers about high bacteria levels.

"I'm appalled," said Char Pochius.

"Once they hear there are problems with pollution here, they don't even want to get close to it and I can't say I blame them," said Mike Baggett.

Since people aren't going in the water, it's affecting businesses that rely on it. Especially Mike Baggett's kayak and canoe business.

"We haven't rented a single kayak since the signs went up," said Baggett of It's Time! Kayak & Canoe.

But Sader isn't letting the bacteria sour his business.

"It doesn't mean you can't sit at the beach, it doesn't mean you can't use our beautiful pool over here and it doesn't mean you can't have a hot dog for lunch," said Sader.

Baggett tells me even though the signs are going to stay up throughout the weekend, he plans on staying on the beach with his kayaks, hoping to rent one out.

"All we can do is be here and do the best we can, that's all," said Baggett.

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