September 6, 2018

OKALOOSA COUNTY SALTWATER BEACH MONITORING RESULTS FOR September 5, 2018
Health advisory issued for Garniers Park, Marler Park, Liza Jackson Park, Poquito Park, Rocky Bayou State Park, and Lincoln Park

Contact: Katie McDeavitt
HealthyOkaloosaPIO@flhealth.gov
850-344-0572
850-420-2198

Ft. Walton Beach, Fla– The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) conducts bi-weekly saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 11 sites through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Samples are collected from March through the end of October. The water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (enterococci) that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals and which may cause human disease, infections, or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage.

*Health advisory are issued for **Marler Park** of Okaloosa Island**, Garniers Park and Liza Jackson Park** of Fort Walton Beach, **Poquito Park** of Shalimar**, Rocky Bayou State Park** of Niceville, and **Lincoln Park** of Valparaiso. The health advisory is based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recommended standards for enterococci. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.*

If you have questions, contact the DOH-Okaloosa County at (850) 833-9247 or (850) 689-7859. You can also visit www.HealthyOkaloosa.com and click the "Healthy Beaches" link to be taken to a list of Okaloosa County's Healthy Beaches sites, sampling results and maps.

About the Florida Department of Health
The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

###