OKALOOSA COUNTY SALTWATER BEACH MONITORING RESULTS FOR JULY 24, 2017

Health advisories issued for Liza Jackson Park, Wayside Park, Emerald Promenade, Henderson Park, and James Lee Park



Contact: Ryan Mims

HealthyOkaloosaPIO@flhealth.gov

Office: 850-344-0571 Cell: 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 advisories are issued for **Liza Jackson Park** of Fort Walton Beach, **Wayside Park** and **Emerald Promenade** of Okaloosa Island, and **Henderson Park** and **James Lee Park** of Destin. 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 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 <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, 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 <u>@HealthyFla</u> and on <u>Facebook</u>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

###