

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 5/23/2018 10:22:28 PM
To: Mimi Slawoff; Ex. 6
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: Re: Media Question: Beach Water Quality

Mimi,

“America’s beaches are monitored for water quality and safe for swimming about 95 percent of the time. However, when planning a beach trip, it’s always best to check with the state, territory, or tribal beach program to see if they have posted an advisory or closure for the beach you’ll be visiting.” -- Dennis Lee Forsgren, Jr., Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of Water

On background:

Contacts for state, territorial, and tribal beach programs in the U.S. can be found on EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/beaches/state-territorial-tribal-and-epa-beach-program-contacts>.

The majority of beach advisories and closures in the U.S. are due to water test results indicating fecal bacteria contamination, which can make people sick. Fecal contamination can come from sewer overflows, untreated stormwater runoff, boating wastes, wildlife and pet waste, and malfunctioning septic systems.

You can help keep America’s beach waters clean and safe for swimming by throwing away your trash, including soiled diapers, as well as your pet’s waste.

On May 23, 2018, at 11:18 AM, Mimi Slawoff; Ex. 6 wrote:

Hi Enesta,

These are excellent websites to include, thank you. Regarding getting a quote from someone, is there someone at your agency who can provide a short statement or two about why checking a beach's water quality is important when planning a family beach vacation? Or I can reach out to someone listed on the EPA's regional beach contacts. In fact, maybe that's best. What do you think?

Thanks so much for all this!

Mimi

On Wed, May 23, 2018 at 7:54 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Mimi,

On background: The EPA’s Beach Advisory and Closing Online Notification system (BEACON) is a helpful tool as it has recent water quality and beach closure/notification information for more than 6,000 coastal beaches covered by the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH)

Act. **Note:** BEACON does not reflect the most current conditions. For the most recent information, please contact the state, territory, or tribe’s beach program or EPA’s regional beach contact person for the U.S. beach where you are vacationing.

On May 22, 2018, at 2:11 PM, Mimi Slawoff; Ex. 6 wrote:

Hello - I'm writing an article about family beach vacations that will include tips for choosing a destination. Beach water quality is among those tips. I plan to include the EPA website and would like to also include a comment from someone at the agency.

The article is for Alamo Rent a Car's Scenic Route Page: https://www.alamo.com/en_US/car-rental/scenic-route.html, so I'm looking for general information about how to check a beach's water quality in the U.S. Does the EPA have an annual beach report card, for example?

I live in Los Angeles and Heal the Bay has a helpful beach report card for L.A., but I'm having trouble finding something similar on a national scale.

Thanks so much and I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

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