



The City of Treasure Island, Florida  
[www.mytreasureisland.org](http://www.mytreasureisland.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

---

## Water sampling procedure

As you may have gathered from the web site, there is one location on Treasure Island's beaches that is sampled in the Healthy Beaches Program. That location is directly west of the City of St. Petersburg concession stand. The sampling is done on Tuesday mornings and the test results are available Wednesday afternoons. Should the fecal or enterococcus bacteria counts exceed criteria, then another sample is collected on Thursday morning and the results are known on Friday afternoon. If the results are confirmed or if the exceedances continue, then an advisory is posted or continued.

The criteria for fecal bacteria is 399 colony forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters (ml) and for enterococci it is 104 CFU/100 ml. The enterococci concentrations are also subjected to another criteria called the geometric mean (EGM) which takes the geometric mean of the prior five (5) weeks test results. The test results for the September 11th sample showed a fecal coliform count of 710 CFU/100 ml and an enterococci count of 472 CFU/100 ml. Figuring the 472 CFU/100 ml test result into the geometric mean essentially assures that the geometric mean criteria of 35.99 CFU/100 ml will not be met until it drops out of the five week period which will be at the end of next week. Interestingly, all of the enterococcus test results for samples collected subsequent to Sept 11th have come back below criteria including a CFU/100 ml of 8 for the sample collected Tuesday, Oct. 2, and a CFU/ 100 ml of 6 for the Oct. 4th sample. On the fecal coliform side, only one sample collected on Sept 25th has been above criteria since the Sept 11th sampling. Our weekly water samples meet criteria, yet the advisory remains in effect due to the Sept 11th results.

This past Thursday, Oct. 4th, we also sample Sunshine Beach, Sunset Beach, and five (5) locations in John's Pass to see if there was any pattern that could assist in delineating potential sources. All of those test results were below criteria. So while the weekly test results show that the bacterial counts are below criteria, we are still faced with working off the high number from the Sept 11th results in the geometric mean calculation. Hopefully, whatever caused the spike in bacteria concentrations has passed and the advisory will be lifted once the Sept 11th number falls out of the calculation for the geometric mean. Please be assured that we are watching and are actively involved in this matter and will continue to do so.

###