



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates weekly water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory by sampling for Enterococci, Bacteria and Turbidity, which is a measure of water clarity, advises the public of the following:

DPNR performed water quality analysis at 31 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of September 12 – September 16, 2022. The following beaches meet water quality standards and are considered safe for swimming and fishing:

St. Croix		
Stony Ground	Cane Bay	Chenay Bay
Dorsch Beach	Pelican Cove (Cormorant)	Cramer’s Park Beach
F’sted First Target	Protestant Cay	Halfpenny Beach
Rainbow (Prosperity)	New Fort (Ft. Louise Augusta)	
Columbus Landing	Buccaneer Beach	

St. Thomas		
Lindbergh Bay	Lindqvist Beach	Magens Bay
Brewers Bay	Bluebeard’s Beach	Sapphire Beach
Bolongo Bay	Vessup Bay	

St. John
Cruz Bay
Johnson Bay

Water Island

Honeymoon Beach

The following beaches do not meet water quality standards because they exceed the established Enterococci Bacteria threshold and therefore are not considered safe for swimming or fishing:

- *Shoy's Beach on St. Croix*
- *Coki Point on St. Thomas*
- *Secret Harbor on St. Thomas*
- *Frenchman's Bay on St. Thomas*
- *Oppenheimer Beach on St. John*
- *Great Cruz Bay on St. John*
- *Frank Bay on St. John.*

Please note: Samples were not collected on the following beaches due to high surf conditions:

- *Water Bay on St. Thomas*
- *Hull Bay on St. Thomas*
- *Sprat Hall on St. Croix*
- *Princess (Condo Row) on St. Croix*
- *Grapetree Bay Beach on St. Croix.*

Therefore, the water quality at these beaches is unknown.

Due to the high volume of rainfall expected from the approaching storm, DPNR anticipates that negative environmental impacts will be caused by storm-water runoff, high surf zones and possible sewer system overflows. **DPNR advises the public to refrain from using any of the coastal waters throughout the Territory until further notification after beach testing resumes next week. DPNR is also advising parents to instruct their children to keep away from storm water-impacted beaches as well as areas with manholes and storm water flooding.** There may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in storm water-impacted areas as a result of increased concentrations of bacteria.

All persons should be aware that storm water runoff may also contain contaminants or pollutants harmful to human health and therefore, should avoid areas of storm water runoff (i.e., guts, puddles, and drainage basins) or any area that appears discolored or has foul odors. DPNR will continue to monitor impacted areas and waters.

For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix or 774-3320 in St. Thomas.