



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) advises the public that its Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program conducts weekly assessments of water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory. The program evaluates water samples for Enterococci bacteria, an indicator of potential contamination, and turbidity, which measures water clarity.

During the week of August 17, 2026, through August 21, 2026, DPNR collected and analyzed water samples from 31 designated beaches across the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Based on the results of this week's analysis, the beaches listed below met established water quality standards and are considered safe for swimming and fishing:

St. Croix		
Buccaneer Beach	Gentle Winds	Prosperity Beach
Cane Bay	Grapetree Beach	Protestant Cay
Chenay Bay	Ha'Penny Beach	Rainbow Beach
Cramers Park	New Ft. Louise Augusta	Shoy's Beach
Dorsch Beach	Pelican Cove (Comorant)	Sprat Hall
Fredriksted Public Beach	Princess Condo Row	Stony Ground

St. Thomas		
Bluebeards Beach	Frenchman's Bay	Magens Bay
Brewers Bay	Hull Bay	Sapphire Beach
Bolongo Bay	Lindbergh Bay	Secret Harbor
Coki Point	Lindqvist Beach	Vessup Bay

Water Island
Honeymoon Beach

Water quality samples were not collected at the following locations during this monitoring period:

- Water Bay, St. Thomas
- All beaches on St. John

As a result, current water quality conditions at these beaches are unknown.

DPNR also advises the public that recreational waters impacted by sewage, stormwater runoff, or excessive accumulations of sargassum may pose an increased health risk due to elevated levels of bacteria and other contaminants. Beachgoers should avoid entering waters affected by sewage discharges, stormwater runoff from guts, puddles, and drainage basins, as well as areas with significant sargassum accumulation, discoloration, or foul odors.

DPNR will continue to monitor water quality conditions throughout the Territory and provide updates as additional information becomes available.

For more information regarding beach water quality, please contact the Division of Environmental Protection at (340) 773-1082 on St. Croix or (340) 774-3320 on St. Thomas.