

# NH SWIMMING BEACHES AT A GLANCE

## Contoocook Beach

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)



To protect the public from possible illness while swimming, the NH Beach Program monitors water for fecal bacteria and cyanobacteria from nearly 200 beaches each summer. Freshwater beaches are typically sampled once a month and most of the coastal beaches are sampled twice a week. Towns and other agencies also monitor and report results to NHDES. Bacterial results higher than the state criteria indicate contact with the water could put swimmers at risk of getting sick from harmful microscopic organisms in the water. When bacteria levels are high, NHDES issues an advisory and immediately resamples the beach. Once the bacteria levels no longer exceed the state criteria, the advisory is removed. Advisories DO NOT close a beach. The decision to close a beach is left with the beach owner.

### MONITORED

From Memorial Day to Labor Day the water at this beach is routinely tested for the presence of fecal bacteria

**THE MOST RECENT  
SAMPLES ANALYZED MEET  
STATUTORY BACTERIA  
STANDARDS FOR BEACHES**

**-Green-** signs are posted to let the public know the beach is tested regularly for fecal bacteria. Details on participating beaches are available online. [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

### ADVISORY

High levels of BACTERIA have been detected in this WATER.

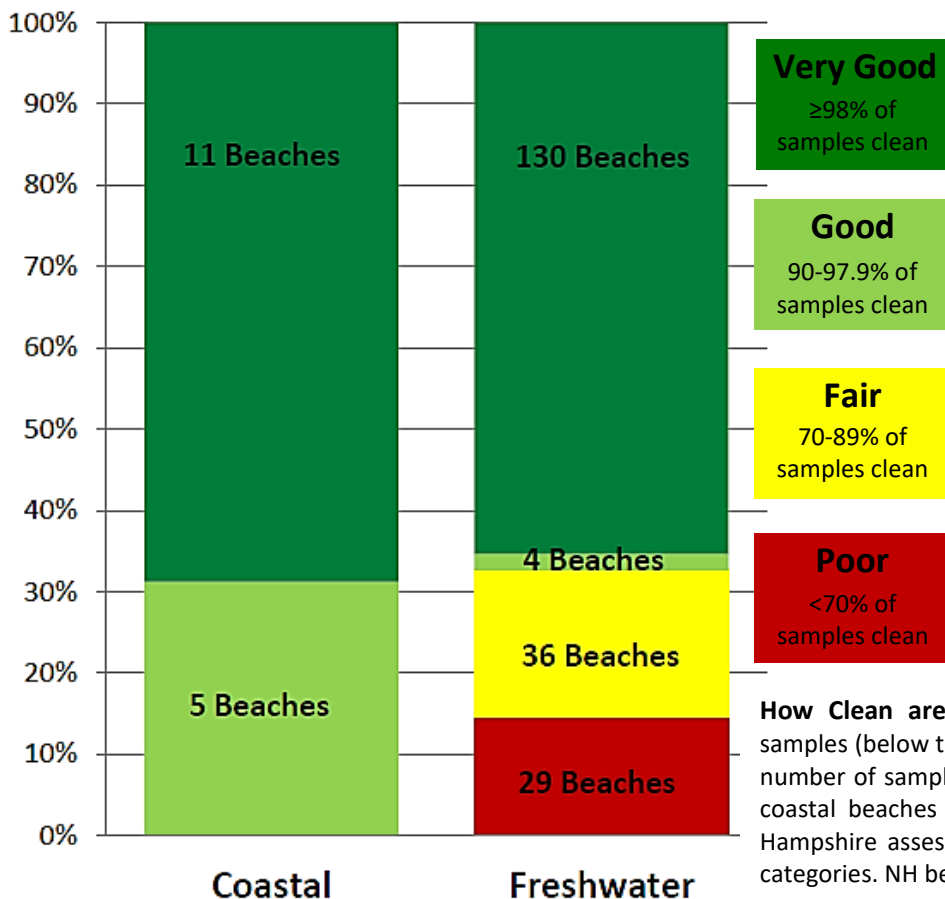
N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services

**WATER CURRENTLY NOT  
SUITABLE FOR WADING  
OR SWIMMING!**

**-Yellow-** signs are displayed at beach entry points when bacteria advisories are issued. Alerts and results are posted online.



## 2017 Summary of NH Beach Bacteria Results



### Contoocook Beach

Location: Jaffrey

**2017: VERY GOOD  
100% of Samples Clean**

NHDES routinely samples this beach **3** times each summer.

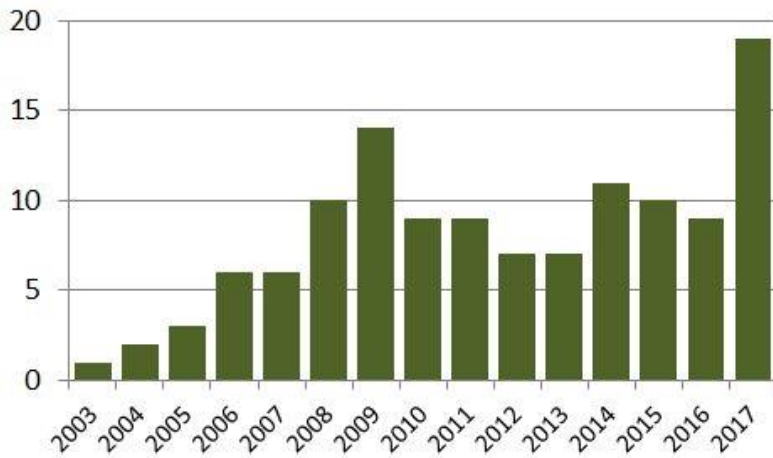
Samples taken since 2003: **143**  
Unclean Samples: **7**

Advisories from 2003-2017: **4**  
Average length of advisories: **10.75 days**

Percent Clean 2003-2017:  
**95% GOOD**

**How Clean are New Hampshire Beaches?** Clean water samples (below the state criteria) were compared to the total number of samples tested for each beach (2003-current). All coastal beaches and most freshwater beaches in the New Hampshire assessment fall into the "Good" or "Very Good" categories. NH beaches are clean > 90% of the time.

# Beach Advisories & Lake Warnings for Blooms



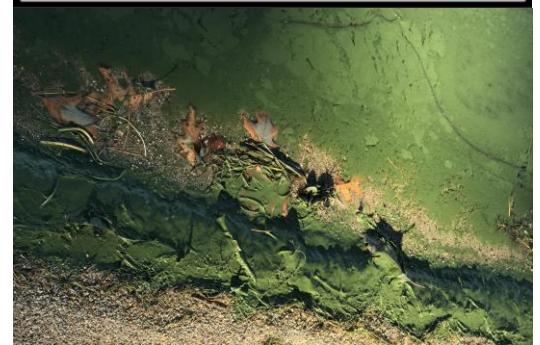
Since 2003, at least 50 freshwater beaches in New Hampshire have reported a cyanobacteria bloom event occurring at least once in a summer. There were 19 cyanobacteria beach advisories and lake warnings recorded by NHDES in 2017. Increased public awareness has likely caused more blooms to be reported.

**-Red-** signs indicate a cyanobacteria beach advisory or lake warning is in effect. These warnings are also posted online ([www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)).

## ADVISORY

High levels of potentially toxic  
**CYANOBACTERIA**  
have been identified in this water

**WATER CURRENTLY NOT  
SUITABLE FOR WADING  
OR SWIMMING!**



## Avoid Cyanobacteria at the Beach!

If you see slimy or scummy water with green, blue-green or red clouds, it could be a bloom. Cyanobacteria blooms are caused by excess nutrients from fertilizer, storm water, and runoff that facilitate their growth. In large quantities, cyanobacteria can be harmful as they may produce toxins. NHDES advises humans and animals to avoid all contact and report a suspected bloom. The NHDES Beach Program posts advisories to warn swimmers when blooms are confirmed at a beach or within a waterbody in NH. Contact the Beach Program to report a sighting of a potentially harmful cyanobacteria bloom. Submit confirmed bloom photos to the Bloom Watch App ([cyanos.org](http://cyanos.org)).

## Stay Connected with the Beach Program

Current advisories posted at

**[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov).**

At left, click on:



Subscribe to our newsletter.

Select "Beach Advisories" at:

<http://des.nh.gov/media/enews/index.htm>



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Questions about beaches and sampling can be directed to:

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