

2009 Bacteria Data - Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs Enterococci Data

A number of groups of bacteria species are used to indicate the presence of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms. In Rhode Island two groups monitored in order to protect human health - fecal coliforms and enterococci. The USEPA has identified enterococci as better indicators of increased risks of contracting gastrointestinal illnesses from water contact than fecal coliforms. Therefore the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIHealth) adopted single-value enterococci standards for licensed swimming beaches in 2004, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) adopted enterococci for contact recreation standards on all waters (fresh and salt) shortly after. In addition, as required under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program for shellfish waters and as an indicator of overall water quality, RIDEM continues to assess fecal coliform levels, particularly in marine waters or waters that discharge directly to marine waters (fecal coliform data is available for marine waters and shellfish area tributaries in the "Tidal Rivers Bacteria" file).

While URIWW's Analytical Laboratories are State certified, Watershed Watch data is intended for screening purposes only. However our data are very valuable for targeting areas of concerns and for tracking potential sources of bacterial contamination. Samples from various sites may have been collected over a period of days for each collection period, so may reflect dry versus wet weather or rain event values. Please contact Watershed Watch for specific sample dates.

Any result above the state standard is considered unsafe, and swimmers should refrain from swimming until results return to acceptable levels, or at least for several days after heavy rain.

RI Department of Health standards for recreational contact (i.e. swimming):

Fresh Waters - Single sample not to exceed 61 enterococci per 100 mL.

RI Department of Environmental Management Enterococci Standards:

Non-designated Bathing Beach (Fresh) Waters Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 54 enterococci per 100 mL.

Designated Bathing Beach (Fresh) Waters Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 33 enterococci per 100 mL.

Watershed code	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
		--- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL ---						
CE	Almy Pond	328	-	11.6	-	-	8	31.2
WD	Alton Pond	7.5	-	92.7	-	-	47.8	32.1
S	Asa Pond	2	-	6.4	-	-	3	3.4
WD	Barber Pond	2	-	7.5	-	9.9	8.5	6.0
WD	Beach Pond	4.2	-	1	-	3.1	< 1	1.1
A	Belleville Pond - Lower	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TH	Billings Lake (CT)	3.1	-	3.1	-	3	2	2.8
PA	Blackamore Pond	6.2	-	< 2	-	-	17.3	10.4
TH	Blue Lake (CT)	2	-	78.2	-	-	< 1	2.5
WD	Boone Lake	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
TH	Bowdish Reservoir	<1	-	-	<1	2	-	< 1
CW	Bullhead Pond	20.7	-	1	-	-	-	4.5
TH	Carbuncle Pond	3.1	-	1	-	2	1	1.6
PA	Carr Pond (WG)	2	-	< 1	-	< 1	< 1	< 1
R	Central Pond (Turner Res.)	2	-	12.6	-	-	-	5.0
CW	Deep Pond	1	-	1	-	< 1	Not run	< 1
PA	Flat River Reservoir	6.4	-	-	-	< 1	1	< 1
WO	Georgiaville Pond	3.1	-	< 1	-	-	2	2.5
NA	Gorton Pond	5.3	-	109.1	-	< 1	7.4	4.5

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WO	Hawkins Pond	3.1	-	5.3	-	-	4.2	4.1	
WD	Hundred Acre Pond	2	-	13.7	-	3.1	5.1	4.6	
B	Keech Pond	3.1	-	4.2	-	9.9	-	5.1	
CE	Lily Pond	42.9	-	>6913	-	-	-	> 544	
PA	Little Pond	4.2	-	4.2	-	3	5.3	4.1	
S	Long Pond (SK)	<1	-	<1	-	34.4	25.4	29.6	
PA	Mashapaug Pond	22.3	-	12.1	-	123.4	6.3	21.4	
WD	Meadowbrook Pond	1	-	22.8	-	-	2	3.6	
NA	Melville Pond - Upper	3.1	-	2	-	-	9.9	3.9	
PA	Mishnock Lake	<1	-	20.7	-	3.1	1	1.6	
B	Pascoag Reservoir	9.9	-	3.1	-	1	1	2.4	
WD	Pasquissett Pond	3.1	30.6	20.7	20.1	9.9	6.4	11.6	
PA	Ponagansett Reservoir	1	-	1	-	4.2	3.1	1.9	
NA	Prince's Pond	<1	-	164	-	-	1	2.5	
WD	Queen Usquepaugh	23.5	-	12.1	-	-	41.9	22.8	
PA	Randall Pond	7.5	-	1	-	-	35	6.4	
PA	Sand Pond	4.2	85.3	1	47.8	5.3	17.8	10.8	
S	Saugatucket Pond	1	-	686.7	-	-	53.1	33.2	
CW	Schoolhouse Pond - Lower	1	-	4.2	-	2	Not run	2.0	
CW	Schoolhouse Pond - Upper	1	-	23.8	-	2	Not run	3.6	
A	Secret Lake	9.9	-	19.2	-	-	3	8.3	
S	Silver Lake	<1	5.2	2	-	1	2	1.2	
PE	Silver Spring Lake	<1	-	41.4	-	-	1	1.6	
TE	Slater Pond	53.6	-	5.2	-	-	46.2	23.4	
B	Smith & Sayles Res.	1	-	<1	-	2	-	< 1	
WD	Spalding Pond	4.2	-	3	-	-	8.5	4.7	
PA	Spectacle Pond	1	-	2	-	270.8	13.4	9.2	
B	Spring Grove Pond	1	-	<1	-	4.2	2	1.0	
B	Spring Lake	<1	-	<1	-	-	4.2	< 1	
TA	Stafford Pond	-	1	<1	-	1	8.7	1.0	
PA	Tiogue Lake	13.7	5.3	< 5	-	-	1	4.2	
B	Trout Brook Pond	2	-	-	11.1	-	2	3.5	
BI	Trustom Pond	6.3	56	22	88.5	13.4	14.6	22.6	
BI	Trustom Pond - Osprey Pt	4.1	165.2	37.3	23.8	17.1	28.4	25.8	
WD	Tucker Pond	1	-	2	-	3.1	1	1.6	
B	Wallum Lake	1	-	<1	-	-	-	< 1	
NA	Warwick Pond	5.3	3.1	9.9	17.8	21.6	9.4	9.2	
S	Wash Pond	<1	-	1	-	2	7.5	1.1	

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WD	Watchaug Pond	1	-	3.1	-	-	4.1	2.3	
WO	Waterman Reservoir	2	-	16.4	-	-	-	5.7	
BI	Wesquage Pond	9.2	-	110	-	-	1	10.0	
S	White Pond	1	-	1	-	1	1	1.0	
WD	Wincheck Pond	2	-	8.7	-	4.2	1	2.9	
WO	Woonasqua - Stump	1	-	1	-	-	19.2	2.7	
WD	Worden Pond	4.2	-	-	88.5	-	1	7.2	
WD	Wyassup Lake	2	-	<1	-	-	1	<1	
WD	Yawgoo Pond	4.2	2	1	53.1	15	6.4	5.9	

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A factsheet describing how bacteria are monitored, what bacterial indicators are, where bacteria come from and how we can all help to reduce bacterial input into our local water resources is available at <http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/ww/Publications/Bacteria.pdf>.

See the Rhode Island Department of Health beach monitoring website (<http://www.ribeaches.org/>) for additional information about beach monitoring and state standards.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management website has information on State efforts to restore waters impaired by bacteria and other pollutants (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/index.htm>).

