

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Whonnock Lake Temporary Swimming Closure

Maple Ridge, B.C: The Whonnock Lake swimming area has been closed due to a water quality test that shows that the E.coli count exceeds the Fraser Health guidelines. The suspected cause ranges from algae blooms, geese or pet waste.

City staff take water samples weekly, and when E.coli levels rise, the frequency of these tests increases in conjunction with Fraser Health. Testing at the site will continue and the beach will reopen for swimming when the waters are deemed safe by Fraser Health.

Citizens can continue to enjoy the sandy beach, dock, picnic areas and playground. Signs have been placed along the waterline to remind people to stay clear to protect their health. Swimming in water with high E.coli levels can result in severe illness, especially for children, the elderly or people with compromised immune systems. We ask that people monitor their family members and pets to ensure they stay away from the water until it is safe.

Here is the link to the Fraser Health site with testing data for regional beaches:
https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/recreational-water/beach-conditions#.Xxse_yhKiUk

Fraser Health says that geometric mean levels, a type of average based on at least five samples, of more than 200 E.coli bacteria per 100 ml of water and/or a series of single sample results that exceed 400 E.coli – are unsatisfactory.

We thank citizens for their patience and respecting the signage that has been placed at Whonnock Lake to deter swimming until the water testing comes back to normal ranges.