

Water Quality Monitoring Overview

The **District of Lakeland** is committed to keeping residents and visitors informed about environmental health in our region. All recreational water testing at public beaches within the district is managed by **Environmental Public Health** under the **Healthy Beaches Program**.

The program follows **Health Canada guidelines** and includes weekly water sampling during the summer season at designated public beaches. Testing is conducted at **five locations between the swimming buoys at Sunnyside Beach**, beginning at the west end and continuing east.

Wildlife & Environmental Factors

Several natural factors can contribute to bacteria levels in lake water. According to Public Health, **surface water is always vulnerable** to environmental contaminants, including:

- **Feces from birds and wildlife**, including gulls, geese, deer, and domestic pets
- **Runoff after rainfall**, which can wash contaminants into the lake
- **Human behavior**, such as **feeding birds**, which was observed during sample collection at Sunnyside. This can draw large flocks of gulls and increase fecal contamination.

Increased wildlife presence has been noted through **regular bird counts** conducted by the District's water quality monitoring group.

Stormwater & Infrastructure Concerns

While some residents have raised questions about storm drains and washroom facilities near the beach, Environmental Public Health has clarified the following:

- The **highest E. coli readings** were found at sampling points in the **middle and east end** of the beach — **not** near the west-side culvert or drainage outlet.
- **Public washroom facilities** are located on the west side of the beach and are **not considered a source of contamination**.
- **No complaints or reports** have been received by Public Health regarding illegal dumping or contamination of the drainage system.


Residents who have information about unusual activity or suspected sources of contamination are encouraged to report it.

General Water Safety Reminders

- **Do not drink untreated lake water.** Surface water is not protected and may contain harmful pathogens.
- **Avoid feeding wildlife.** This contributes to increased bird activity and bacterial contamination.
- **Pets are prohibited** on public beaches at all times, in accordance with **Bylaw 7-2018 – Animal Control**.
- Be aware that **rainfall and wind** can impact water quality between testing periods.

Questions About Testing?

Testing locations and frequency are managed solely by Environmental Public Health. The District does not conduct its own water testing and does not have the authority to modify the current program.

 For more information or to make inquiries, please contact:
Environmental Public Health – Prince Albert Office
Phone: **306-765-6600**

Helpful Links:

- [Healthy Beaches Program Overview](#)
- [Healthy Beaches FAQs](#)
- [E. coli Fact Sheet](#)

The District of Lakeland will continue to support and communicate updates as they are received. Thank you for doing your part to help keep our lakes clean and safe for everyone.

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