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**MARTIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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For Immediate Release

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## **WATER ADVISORY**

### **BACTERIA LEVELS ELEVATED AT ROOSEVELT BRIDGE**

The Martin County Health Department is urging residents to avoid contact with the water near the Roosevelt Bridge after testing revealed higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria. Potential health risks for those who ingest or come in contact with the water include upset stomach, diarrhea, eye irritation and skin rashes.

Enteric bacteria inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals and their presence in recreational waters is an indication of fecal pollution. The presence of these bacteria may come from storm water runoff, pets, wildlife and human sewage.

The Martin County Health Department has notified the Florida Department of Environmental Protection of the results and will perform additional testing in this area tomorrow.

The Martin County Health Department has been conducting saltwater beach water quality monitoring at eight sites once every two weeks since July 2000 and weekly at nine sites since August 2002, through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. The water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (both fecal coliform and enterococci).

For results of all Martin County beaches sampled, visit the Department's Internet Beach Water Quality website at [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) - click on A-Z Topics, then select "Beach Water Quality" and "Martin County".

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