

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2016



*****HEALTH ADVISORY FOR BACTERIA LEVELS*****
***** *North Fork of the St. Lucie River* *****

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(St. Lucie, County) - The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie is issuing an advisory for high bacteria levels in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. Testing revealed higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria at River Park Marina, Veterans Park, and Sandpiper Bay Canoe Launch. Swimming in the waters is not recommended due to an increased risk of illness at this time. The advisory will remain in effect until results show readings in the good range.

Enteric bacteria inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals and their presence in recreational waters is an indication of fecal pollution. The bacteria may come from storm water runoff, pets, wildlife and human sewage. Symptoms of exposure for those who ingest or come in contact with the water may include upset stomach, diarrhea, eye irritation and skin rashes. For more information, please contact St. Lucie's Environmental Health Division at 772-873-4931.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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