

December 29, 2022

HEALTH ADVISORY FOR BACTERIA LEVELS

North Fork of the St. Lucie River

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PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County will maintain a swimming advisory for Veterans Memorial Park on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River in Port St. Lucie after sample results found higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria. Potential health risks for those who ingest or come in to contact with the water include upset stomach, diarrhea, eye irritation and skin rashes. Swimming in the waters is not recommended due to an increased risk of illness at this time.

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.

The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County will continue the advisory until results are satisfactory. Samples were collected Tuesday December 27, 2022. Additional sampling is scheduled for Monday January 9, 2023, and the results will be available Thursday January 12, 2023.

For results of St. Lucie County River samples, visit the Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County website at <http://stlucie.floridahealth.gov/> click on Environmental Health, then select North Fork Bacteria Testing, then select North Fork-St. Lucie River Sample Results.

For more information, please contact environmental health division at 772-873-4931.

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