



TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
Health Department

Brookfield, CT 06804

Brookfield Health Department Swimming Water & Closure Protocol
Policy # 19-24 (formerly known as 19-23)

Purpose: To assure the health and safety of Residents/Visitors to town of Brookfield's swimming areas and waters.

Protocol/Policy: It shall be the general policy of the town of Brookfield to follow the recommendations and put forth in the *Connecticut State Guidelines for Monitoring Swimming Water Closure Protocol (revised March, 2016)*.

1. Beach waters at Brookfield Town Park are tested each week for potential harmful Escherichia Coli Bacteria (E. coli) during the normal summer swimming season from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Results will be available within the 24 hours.
2. If reports of E.coli concentrations are at or below the generally acceptable levels (GAL) for swimming of 235 organisms per 100 milliliter (235/100ml), beach water will NOT be re-tested that week.
3. If report of E.coli concentrations exceeds the GAL of 235/100 ml, the water levels will be re-tested within the 24 hours.
4. If two (2) sequential tests exceed the GAL for E.coli in a given week, the beach waters will be closed to swimming and "NO SWIMMING" signs will be posted. Swimming beach waters will remain closed until a negative test (GAL below 235/100 ml) is received or reported.
5. Swimming beach waters will be closed if the second confirmatory test can't be conducted in a timely manner until a negative test (GAL below 235/10 ml) is received or reported.
6. Public beaches will also be monitored for Cyanotoxin levels – the harmful products of Blue-Green Algae, through a contract with Western Connecticut State University. Town of Brookfield will follow the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Recommendations for Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxin Monitoring in Recreational Waters".
 - a. If Cyanotoxin levels exceed eight (8) parts per billion (ppb), beaches will automatically be closed to swimming and posted, until such time as test results below this level have been received. The mere presence of Blue-Green Algae on

visual inspection of beach waters is not sufficient to justify beach closure in the absence of confirmatory test for Cyanotoxin levels.

7. The Director of Health or sanitarian will make the final determination regarding beach closure or re-opening based upon existing conditions and knowledge and experience.

POST RAINFALL EVENT PROTOCOL

1. Swimming in beach water shall be prohibited for **minimum 24 hours** if rainfall amount exceeds **one inch** in a 24 hour period. Beach water for swimming will be re-opened after a negative test (GAL below 235/10 ml) is received or reported.
2. Swimming in beach water shall be prohibited for **minimum 48 hours** if a rainfall amount exceeds **two inches** in a 24 hour period. Beach water for swimming will be re-opened after a negative test (GAL below 235/10 ml) is received or reported.
3. Swimming in beach water shall be prohibited for **minimum 72 hours** if a rainfall amount exceeds **three inches** in a 24 hour period. Beach water for swimming will be re-opened after a negative test (GAL below 235/10 ml) is received or reported.
4. Rain gauge readings at the Park & Recreation Department are taken to determine levels of rainfall.
5. Residents/visitors may still visit the Brookfield Town Park areas for different activities (walking, gathering, recreation and etc.) during the day(s) that beach water for swimming is closed.
 - a. During other activities, entering the beach water must be avoided.
 - b. Assigned lifeguard(s) will be present to prevent anyone entering the beach water.

IMPORTANT FACTS

Elevated bacterial levels in bathing areas can cause health problems, including skin irritations, eye pain, congestion, ear pain and gastrointestinal illnesses from ingesting contaminated water (CDC, 2022).

Common factors leading to beach closures and advisories include excessive rainwater that carries pollution from storm drains (like motor oil, sewage, pet waste, pesticides, trash, and pathogens) to recreational waters; it is generally wise to avoid swimming after heavy rains (EPA, 2023).

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON AUGUST 06, 2023

June, 2023