

When are advisories issued?



General Rain Advisories

General Rain Advisories are issued when significant rain (~0.2 inches) causes urban runoff to enter the ocean and bays. This contamination causes bacteria to increase significantly in ocean and bay waters, especially near storm drains, rivers, and lagoon outlets. **The Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) advises beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters for 72 hours after rainfall ends.** While many storm drains, rivers, and lagoon outlets are permanently posted with white metal warning signs, additional warning signs are not posted for General Rain Advisories.



Bacterial Exceedance Advisories



Bacterial Exceedance Advisories are issued when ocean or bay water sample results exceed State health standards due to high bacteria levels. **The Department of Environmental Health & Quality advises beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters where these white advisory signs are posted.**



Precautionary Advisories



Precautionary Advisories are issued when DEHQ determines a potential for elevated bacteria due to dredging, lagoon opening or other sources in the vicinity of coastal areas. **The Department of Environmental Health & Quality advises beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters in the advisory area.**



Outfall Warning Signs



Outfall warning signs are posted at many storm drains, rivers, and lagoon outlets as bacteria levels can significantly increase due to urban runoff. Beach users are directed to avoid runoff and ocean or bay waters within 75 feet of runoff.