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ADEM Provides Coastal Beach Monitoring

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will again provide water quality information for Alabama's Gulf Coast public beaches to assist people in making informed decisions about their recreational use of coastal waters this spring and summer. ADEM has initiated its enhanced monitoring efforts under the Coastal Beach Monitoring Program and the Department has resumed the weekly collection and analysis of water samples at 25 public beaches in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

ADEM scientists will conduct water quality sampling and testing to establish overall water quality data from each public beach location. The monitoring efforts will stretch from May through Labor Day with water samples being collected weekly, or more frequently if needed, at each of the public beach locations.

The selection of the public beaches that are being monitored under the program and the monitoring frequency was determined using a risk-based evaluation and ranking process that considers the amount of beach use, the level of risk, and any specific factors associated with each beach. In addition, the public beaches that are monitored display a color-coded sign advising swimmers of the most recent water quality conditions and providing information about potential health risks associated with swimming or other water activities at the beach. Water quality information is also available online at www.adem.alabama.gov along with a map of the public beaches that are being monitored under the Coastal Beach Monitoring Program.

"The Department has dedicated a tremendous amount of resources to protect water quality along Alabama's coastal areas," said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. "I appreciate the efforts that our staff takes on behalf of the citizens of this state and I encourage all Alabamians to enjoy these coastal resources this summer."

Alabama has more than 50 miles of beaches along the Gulf of Mexico and approximately 65 miles of bay beaches. ADEM has partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Baldwin County Health Department to ensure the successful implementation of its Coastal Beach Monitoring Program.

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