**Follow the “7 Please’s” to keep you and our beaches safe!**

**PLEASE #1**
Don’t swallow lake or pool water.

**PLEASE #2**
Since germs on your body end up in the water, always wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom or after changing diapers.

**PLEASE #3**
Avoid swimming lake water.

**PLEASE #4**
Don’t feed the water fowl (ducks and geese).

**PLEASE #5**
Change diapers in a bathroom. Germs can spread to surfaces and objects in and around the environment and spread illnesses.

**PLEASE #6**
Wash yourself and your children thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming.

**PLEASE #7**
Do not feed the water fowl (ducks and geese). They create unsanitary conditions on the beach.

**Simple Steps to Protect Our Lakes and the Environment**
- **Conserve Water**: Excessive water use stresses sewage treatment plants, particularly during heavy rains, which may lead to sewer overflows.
- **Limit Your Use of Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers on Lawns and Gardens**: Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides can end up in lakes and streams and can harm aquatic animals and plants.
- **Keep Pet Waste**: Pet waste can contain bacteria and other harmful substances that can pollute waterways.
- **Don’t Use Bathing Suits**: Bathing suits can be a source of germs and can end up in lakes and streams.
- **Wash Your Hands**: Always wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom or after changing diapers.
- **Avoid Swimming**: Swimming in contaminated water can cause illness.

**Blue-Green Algae Blooms (cyanobacteria)**
- Occurs in conditions of:
  - No Wind
  - High water temperatures
  - High levels of nutrients in lakes
- Texas releases by blue-green algae can cause significant illness risk.

**Safety Tips when you see a blue-green algae bloom:***
- Avoid swimming in affected areas.
- Avoid swimming, boating, and fishing in affected areas.
- Avoid touching or swimming near the bloom.
- Wash skin that may have been exposed.
- Thoroughly wash hands before eating.
- Keep children out of the water.

**Why We Close Beaches**
When our testing reveals unsafe, high bacteria counts, we close the beach. We will not reopen until testing shows the conditions to be safe again.

When blue-green algae density is high, we may close the beach.

Beach closings have become part of the summer routine. The good news is that water conditions are always changing and most of these closings are temporary.

The inconvenience is a small price to pay for avoiding health risks!

**For More Information on Beach Locations or Conditions, check out our website:**
www.publichealthmadison.com/beaches
Or call us at (608) 243-8356