



Town of Darien

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Darien Health Department Policy and Protocol for Town Beaches

The Darien Health Department is responsible for collecting bathing beach water samples, monitoring rainfall events, updating the 24-hour phone number (656-7323) with the area(s) status, and notifying the Darien Parks and Recreation Department and the CT DPH, when it becomes necessary to “close,” or it is acceptable to “reopen,” the Town bathing areas located at Pear Tree Point and Weed Beach.

The Darien Health Department will take immediate action (within one hour) to “close” the bathing area(s), including verbal notification to the Darien Parks and Recreation Department, when any of the following conditions occur:

- ◆ One inch or greater of rainfall occurs during a rainfall event as determined by the Darien Health Department. Rainfall shall be measured for a 24-hour period, but continuous rain for a period of greater than 24 hours will be accumulated and considered as one rain event as per the State of CT Department of Public Health.
- ◆ Bathing water bacterial sample results are determined by the Darien Health Department to be elevated above acceptable levels for swimming/bathing for two consecutive sampling days.
- ◆ A pollution event has occurred, including but not limited to releases of sewage, oil or other chemicals, or a toxic algal bloom, that by the determination of the Health Department after consultation with the CT State of Public Health may pose an unacceptable risk to public health.

The Darien Health Department will notify the Darien Parks and Recreation Department that it is acceptable to “open” the bathing area(s) when any of the following conditions occur:

- ◆ More than 24 hours has passed since the end of the most recent rainfall **event** of greater than or equal to one (1.0) inch. *No calls from the Health Department are required when reopening after a rainfall event only. This determination may be made independently by the Parks and Recreation Department.*
- ◆ Water sample results after subsequent retesting are within the acceptable criteria for reopening as assessed by the Health Department.
- ◆ Sufficient time has passed after a pollution event (not limited to sewage, oil, chemical or toxic phytoplankton) as determined by the Health Department together with the CT State of Public Health, that any risk to public health has been minimized.