



Town of Darien

Health Department

David Knauf, MPH, MS, REHS
Director of Health
(203) 656-7320
dknauf@darienct.gov
www.darienhealth.com
www.twitter.com/darienhealth

2019 - Beaches and Recreational Water Quality

David Knauf, Director of Health

The Darien Health Department collects water samples at Pear Tree Point and Weed Beaches weekly from Memorial Day through Labor Day and submits those samples to the Stamford Health Department Laboratory to be tested for the presence of bacteria that may cause illness. The purpose of the testing is to ensure that the water quality meets health safety standards for swimmers as established by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. In addition to water sampling, this department monitors rainfall amounts during the season and has an established protocol of notifying the Parks and Recreation Department to close the beaches for swimming whenever more than one inch of rain occurs in a 24 hour period. A rain gauge located at Pear Tree Point is used to evaluate rainfall totals. This policy is considered to be a preemptive measure to protect public health since elevated bacteria levels have been documented after rainfall events.

Over the past summer (2019), there were NO beach closures in Darien due to elevated bacteria counts. However, there were two days (7/18 and 7/23) of swimming restrictions at town beaches due to rainfall events over one inch.

The Beach telephone HOTLINE (203-656-7323) is maintained to provide information regarding the status of our beaches during the summer months.