



MONITORING AT IOWA'S RECREATIONAL BEACHES

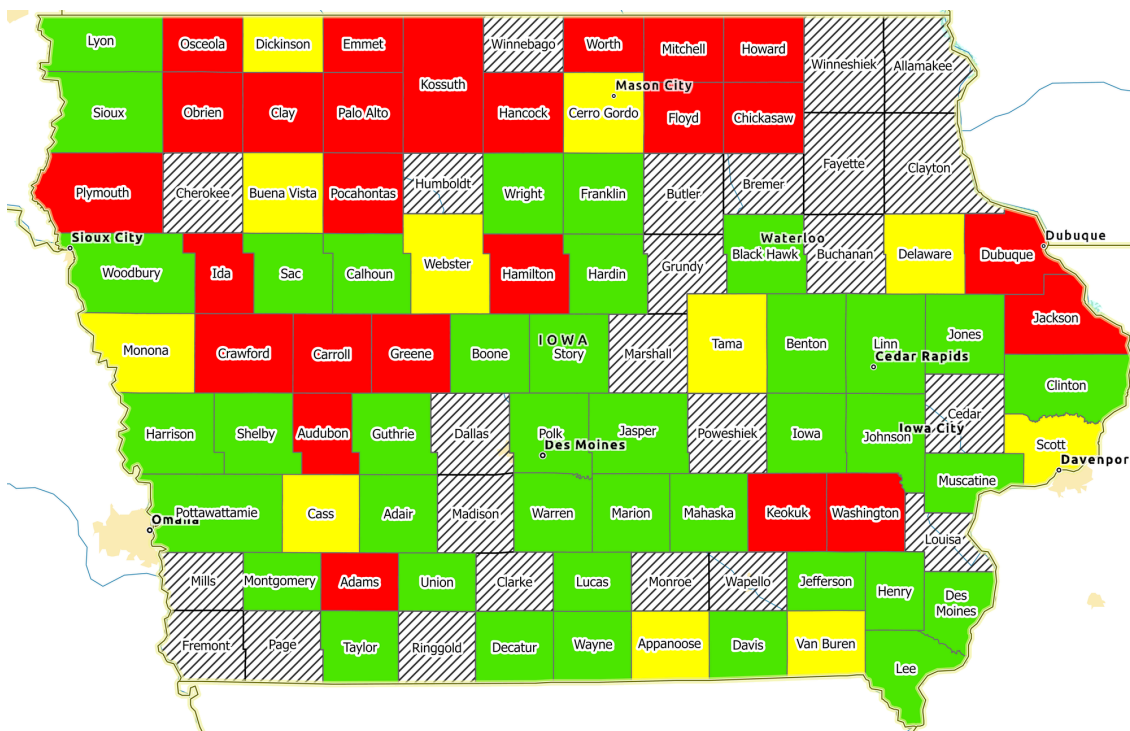
Beaches across Iowa are tested for Escherichia coli (E. coli) and microcystin bacteria by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), and city and county conservation departments.

However, Iowa lacks a uniform protocol for recreational water body testing.

In Iowa, many beaches managed by the IDNR and USACE are tested weekly for E. coli and microcystin levels from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Some protocols are in place to test more frequently if results are above the healthy standard of 235 colony forming units per 100 milliliters for E. coli and 8 micrograms per liter for microcystin. In addition to increased testing, the IDNR must post a "swimming not recommended" advisory if either contaminant is above the healthy standard. Many beaches in Iowa are not tested for E. coli or microcystin; therefore, the beach will not have an advisory sign, even if levels are unsafe for public health.

Type of Testing	Total Public Beaches (federal, state, county, city)	Percentage
Tested only for E. coli	36	27%
Tested for microcystin and E. coli	47	35%
Not tested	50	38%
Total	133	100%

Public Beaches Tested for E. coli by County



- No beaches tested
- Some beaches tested
- All beaches tested
- No public beaches in the county

Sources: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa county websites

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, visit programs.iowadnr.gov/aquia/beaches to access monitoring results and advisories.

This map is part of an ongoing effort to locate and assess which recreational beaches across Iowa are regularly tested for E. coli and microcystin. It may not be comprehensive. If you are aware of a city- or county-operated beach that might not be shown here, please let us know so we can update our records.