

NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 5, 2007

**Contact: Ginger Heidel
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912.484.4116****Health Department Issues Swimming Advisory**

TYBEE ISLAND, GA— The Chatham County Health Department has placed the Polk Street area of Tybee Island under advisory. Routine water quality tests from samples taken December 4th show the beach water in this area contains a high level of enterococci bacteria, which increase the risk of gastrointestinal illness in swimmers.

The advisory area is on the northernmost part of Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River from the end of the beach to the jetty, and an advisory sign is posted. The Chatham County Health Department recommends that you do not swim or wade in the water. Fish and other seafood caught from this area should be thoroughly washed with fresh water and thoroughly cooked before eating.

The Polk Street area will be retested December 6th, and results should be available the next day. The advisory will be lifted when tests show the bacteria level meets the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended standard. All other beach areas on Tybee Island tested at acceptable levels.

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