

NEWS RELEASE

July 30, 2014

Contact: Sally Silbermann

912.644.5217

**Tybee Island Strand Beach at Pier Advisory Lifted;
Tybee Island Polk Street Beach Placed Under Advisory**

CHATHAM COUNTY, GA – The Chatham County Health Department has lifted the swimming advisory for Strand Beach at the Pier (from 11th Street to 18th Street) on Tybee Island. Polk Street Beach (the northern most part of Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River from the end of the beach to the jetty). This advisory is only for the area(s) specified above and does not impact any other beaches on the island. This beach water advisory is to alert the public of a possible risk of illness associated with water contact but does not mean the beach is closed.

The Chatham County Health Department recommends you do not swim or wade in the water in the area under advisory. Fish and other seafood caught from this area should be thoroughly washed with fresh water and thoroughly cooked before eating as should fish or seafood caught from any waters.

The advisory for Strand Beach at the Pier was issued on July 16, 2014 after routine water quality tests showed a high level of enterococci bacteria which increase the risk of gastrointestinal illness in swimmers. Subsequent water samples taken showed that the bacteria levels had dropped below Environmental Protection Agency's recommended limits. Therefore, the advisory for that area has been lifted.

The area currently under advisory will be retested and the advisory will be lifted when tests show the bacteria levels meet the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended standards.

###