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## DOH-Pasco Urges Residents to Avoid Beaches and Pools After Hurricane Milton

*Avoid Contact with Contaminated Water and Surrounding Flooded Areas*



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**Pasco County, Fla. —** The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County (DOH-Pasco) advises the public not to enter the water due to the increased risk of water-borne illness. Water quality has been affected by Hurricane Milton. Swimming is not recommended.

### Public Beaches

Heavy winds and rain can negatively impact coastal waters. Excessive amounts of rain and storm surge can increase the levels of harmful bacteria in these waters. The sources of the bacteria can vary and include failing septic systems, sewer line breaks, overflowing manholes, and wildlife.

Debris brought onto beaches by storm surge and floodwaters can be hazardous and may carry harmful bacteria. No one should handle debris without proper safety equipment.

Residents and visitors should avoid swimming in coastal waters until bacterial testing shows an acceptable level in accordance with state guidelines. Testing will begin as soon as conditions are safe, and areas are accessible. Test results can be accessed at [FloridaHealth.gov/HealthyBeaches](https://FloridaHealth.gov/HealthyBeaches).

### Swimming Pools

Residents and visitors should avoid swimming in any pool until it has been properly cleaned and is fully functional. Public swimming pools need to be approved for opening by DOH-Pasco. A fully functional pool has:

- Been cleared of debris that may cause injury.
- Operating filtration and chemical treatment equipment.
- Life-saving equipment available.
- Clear water with visible drain covers on the pool floor.
- Properly balanced chemicals with disinfectant and pH at safe levels.

Additional information on swimming pool water and safety can be found on the Florida Department of Health's public [swimming pool webpage](#) and the [WaterSmartFL website](#).

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