



KENT AND OTTAWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
JOINT HEALTH ADVISORY

July 3, 2008

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Surface Water Advisory for Grand River

Downstream from Wealthy Street Bridge in Grand Rapids and entire length in Ottawa County

The City of Grand Rapids notified local public health departments that a COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW was released into the Grand River at several Grand Rapids locations, including the Market Avenue Retention Basin. The combined amount of the discharge is estimated to be approximately 70 million gallons

As a result of these releases, the Kent and Ottawa County health departments are issuing a NO BODY CONTACT ADVISORY for the entire length of the Grand River from the Wealthy Street Bridge in Grand Rapids downstream to Lake Michigan, which includes the entire length of the river in Ottawa County. The Kent and Ottawa County health departments will be collecting water samples for *E. Coli* analysis on the morning of July 7th.

This advisory takes effect immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Further Guidance Regarding Surface Water Exposure After Heavy Rainfall

Individuals are advised to use caution whenever swimming in surface waters after periods of intense precipitation. In addition to combined sewer overflows, rivers and lakes can be contaminated with runoff from a variety of sources. It is generally advised that people adhere to the following recommendations when visiting a beach after heavy rainfall:

1. Try not to submerge the head or swallow water. Studies have shown that ingesting infectious organisms is the primary cause of recreational water illnesses.
2. After swimming, wash your hands prior to eating or drinking.
3. Avoid waters which appear murky or contaminated with pollution.