

Criteria for Testing of Public Beaches on Lake Massapoag

On May 27, 2015, the Sharon Board of Health voted to reduce testing of town beaches on Lake Massapoag from twice weekly to once weekly, consistent with recently revised state regulations. The vote was based on data collected from the Lake for many years that showed reduced levels of water contamination. Sharon Health Department data also supported the basis for changes in state testing rules, i.e., that most contamination incidents were transient, with bacterial levels significantly reduced to acceptable levels with 24 hours of initial testing.

The Board of Health asked that in addition to routine required weekly testing of the Lake during the swimming season, that additional testing be carried under by the Health Department based on environmental conditions or reports of illness outbreaks that might be related to exposure to contaminated water. The follow conditions will be evaluated and used to support additional testing of bathing beach waters during the summer months when Sharon Community Center Beach, Memorial Beach, and associated boating facilities are in operation.

- Reports of gastrointestinal illness or outbreak related to water quality.
- High beach usage or holidays
- Limited precipitation and/or drought monitoring
- High precipitation events
- High animal populations on or near beaches (e.g., geese, dogs)
- Identified or suspected contamination from septic systems or known releases into Lake