



Maryland Department of the Environment

Maryland Healthy Beaches

2025 Progress Report

In the summer of 2024, Maryland's monitored beaches met water quality standards and were open for swimming without health advisories more than 98% of the time. This marks the 20th consecutive year of maintaining a 96% or higher open rate.

This success is a result of strong partnerships between the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and local jurisdictions, ensuring regular water quality monitoring and pollution mitigation efforts to protect public health.



Know Before You Go, Safe Swimming Practices

- Check real-time beach conditions at mde.maryland.gov/beaches
- Avoid swimming within 48 hours of heavy rain.
- Dispose of pet waste & trash properly.
- Use marina pump-out stations for boat waste.
- Avoid feeding wildlife to prevent water contamination.
- Refrain from swimming if you are sick or have open wounds.

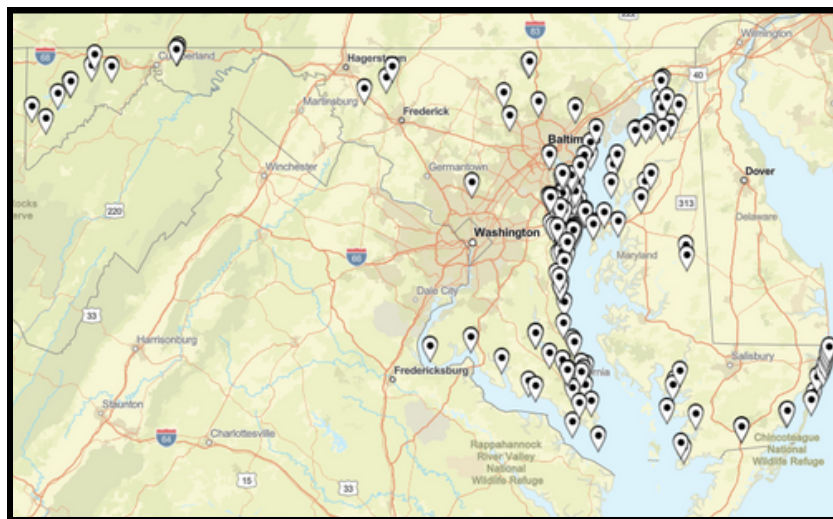


Beach Monitoring and Public Health

- Ocean City and Mayo Beach Park have never been under an advisory or closure since monitoring began in 2000.
- Local health departments will continue to collect water samples consistently to ensure safety for public health.
- Water samples are analyzed by the Maryland Department of Health laboratories.
- Advisories are issued when fecal bacteria levels exceed safety thresholds.

Working Together for Safe Swimming

MDE enforces strict regulations for wastewater management, prioritizes septic system upgrades, and ensures timely reporting of sewage spills to reduce risks to beachgoers. You can do your part by maintaining your home septic tank, and reporting issues in your community if you see them.



188 beaches are monitored across the state Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends.