



## COUNTY OF LAKE

### HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Division of Environmental Health  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Each year during the summer visitor season, the Lake County Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Division collects water samples for bacteriological water quality at popular water sport recreational areas. Water samples were collected on May 15 and May 18, 2009 at several locations on Clear Lake, Blue Lakes, Highland Springs Reservoir, Hidden Valley Lake and the Anderson Springs area.

Samples were analyzed at a certified laboratory for bacterial "indicator organisms". The test results showed that all the locations sampled were safe for swimming and water contact sports according to USEPA and California Department of Public Health guidelines.

Lake County Health Officials are also aware of people being bothered by "Swimmer's Itch" after being in the water. Swimmer's itch is a skin rash that is not contagious and cannot be passed from person to person. The rash is caused by an allergic reaction to certain microscopic parasites of birds and mammals. Itching may last up to a week or more but will gradually go away. Most cases do not require medical attention.

Individuals are advised to 1. Avoid swimming near or wading in marshy areas where snails are commonly found. 2. Towel dry or shower immediately after leaving the water. 3. Do not attract birds by feeding them in areas where people are swimming.

For more detailed information on "Swimmer's Itch" or Cercarial Dermatitis go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cercarialdermatitis/factsht\\_cercarialdermatitis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cercarialdermatitis/factsht_cercarialdermatitis.htm)

Anyone with questions about water quality for swimming and recreation may call the Environmental Health office in Lakeport at 263-1164.