

Testing for Bacteria in Surface Waters and Ponds

The Orford Conservation Commission (OCC) conducts water testing at the three Orford swim beaches (Indian Pond, Upper and Lower Baker Ponds), at locations along Jacobs Brook, and at Brackett Brook, to measure e-coli colony counts in the water. Testing is routinely conducted between May and September each year. The measurements are used to determine whether swimming / wading advisories should be posted at the swim beaches if and when e-coli colony counts exceed New Hampshire State guidelines. The testing is also used to help pinpoint possible sources causing high e-coli colony counts.

On behalf of the Conservation Commission, the following are recommendations for water testing and posting of advisories:

- 1) The OCC conducts water testing for e-coli colony counts at the three swim beaches, and monthly at sites along Jacobs Brook, and at Brackett Brook.
- 2) The OCC provides the test results to the Select Board and to the Health Officer for their considerations.
- 3) Based on the e-coli colony counts, the Select Board may consult with the Health Officer and others, before deciding whether or not to post swimming / wading advisories at the swim beaches. An advisory will be posted if either two or more samples collected at a beach exceed the state standard of 88 counts of E. coli per 100 milliliters (ml) of water OR when one sample exceeds 158 counts of E. coli per 100 ml of water. The test results will further be posted at the Town Offices, on the Orford webpage, and on the Orford Listserv.

Adopted 11/25/2020