

# WATER QUALITY TESTING FOR EVENTS

What event organizers need to know



## We sample water from many Dane County beaches during the summer.

On weekdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Public Health Madison & Dane County staff conduct routine beach monitoring through our certified environmental health lab. [Our website](#) describes how we test and the beaches we currently monitor.



## For your event, you may want additional sampling and water quality testing.

We have a few options you can pick from. We sample water from the shoreline or beach that is nearest to the swimming route. If you have a boat available, we can sample directly along the swimming route, but it is up to you to coordinate with us for this type of sampling.

### **Routine Monitoring Report (Free)**

You can request a report of our routine monitoring results leading up to the event. We can provide this report before the close of business the Friday before an event.

### **Additional Monitoring Point (\$50 per sample)**

You may request additional monitoring points be added and tested during our routine, weekday sample collection for \$50 per sample. We analyze for *E.coli* and microcystin—the toxin in some blue-green algae (also called cyanobacteria).

### **Cyanobacteria Virtual Consultation (Free, but \$25–\$100+ if sampling is required)**

If arranged in advance, you may send us photos of the water and describe conditions for a free virtual visual assessment of the swim area. Our staff can recognize potentially harmful algal blooms this way. If conditions look unsafe for swimming, you can request follow-up sampling and testing. We charge \$25 for each sample, plus a \$100 weekend trip charge if applicable. We report results electronically as soon as possible. The turnaround time is about two hours after sample collection.

### **Weekend Pre/Post-Event Monitoring (\$50 per sample + \$50 trip charge per sampling trip)**

In advance, you can schedule us to take samples and analyze them before and/or following the scheduled swim event. Sample collection can be at a date and time of your choosing. We analyze samples for *E. coli* and microcystin. We charge \$50 per sample, plus a \$50 trip charge for each sampling trip. We can report microcystin results electronically about two hours after sample collection. We will report *E.coli* results electronically the following morning since the testing takes 18-24 hours.

### **Complete Event Monitoring (\$300 for 3 samples + \$25 for each additional test)**

In advance, you can schedule complete event monitoring which includes all the monitoring described above and reports with up to three samples collected. Additional samples cost \$25 per test.

**Give us a call to talk through options and schedule services:**  
(608) 266-4821