

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, we conduct beach monitoring through our certified environmental health lab. [Our website](#) describes how we test and the beaches we monitor.



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

Pricing depends on type of sampling and staff time required. Email us (see Let's Talk box below) for a quote and consultation.

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

You may request additional monitoring points be added and tested during our routine testing. We analyze for *E. coli* and microcystin—the toxin in some blue-green algae (also called cyanobacteria).

Cyanobacteria Virtual Consultation

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 report results electronically as soon as possible. The turnaround time is about two hours after sample collection.

Weekend Pre/Post-Event Monitoring

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 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

In advance, you can schedule complete event monitoring which includes all the monitoring described above and reports with up to three samples collected.

Let's Talk!

Email us to talk through options and schedule services: lab@publichealthmdc.com

Include in your email your contact info, the location of your event, and the event's date (if known).

Please contact us at least a month prior to event so we can coordinate testing and staffing availability.