

Maine's Healthy Beaches Program: Field Monitor Expectations

Volunteer monitors are critical to the success of the Maine's Healthy Beaches (MHB) Program. In addition to collecting the water samples and recording environmental data, the volunteer monitors may be expected to enter the collected information online, and/or transfer samples to the laboratory. This will depend on how the program operates at the local level. To ensure the quality of data submitted and the effectiveness of the program, please review the following guidelines.



All participating monitors whether volunteers or staff will:

1. Participate fully in at least one training session per year for field monitoring, safety, and database use. Other field observational trainings may be required. Participants should be able to demonstrate competence in using equipment, performing the monitoring procedures, and providing accurate data entry. Participants should also understand and comply with safety practices.
2. Become familiar with the MHB Program website www.mainehealthybeaches.org; *Maine Healthy Beaches Program Field Methods, Field Questions and Answers, Bacteria Fact Sheet*, and other materials provided by the MHB Program.
3. Sample at least one time per week at their designated locations, June – August. Exceptions include increased monitoring effort in response to exceedances, and specially arranged monitoring regimes outside the typical “season” (special study areas, rain-event, year-round monitoring). Schedules may also rotate at the local level.
4. Be prepared to resample designated monitoring sites following an exceedance.
5. Monitor at your own risk. Use common sense in determining whether the conditions are potentially unsafe to conduct monitoring. This includes heavy surf, winds, storm-events, and other potential hazards or health risks. Safety is of utmost importance.
6. Ensure collected field data is entered into the on-line database by the end of the scheduled monitoring day, unless the beach manager or other personnel accomplish this.
7. Ensure samples are transported safely and efficiently to the transfer location and/or laboratory for analysis. This includes following the chain of custody set forth by the program.
8. Notify the beach manager(s) in the event that someone reports an illness, hazards, and other conditions posing a potential health risk. Beach managers will follow the policies set forth by the program.
9. Maintain and safely store all equipment distributed by the MHB Program. All supplies/equipment provided by the MHB Program will be used solely for this project and will be returned to the Program Coordinator if the group becomes inactive or the monitoring is discontinued.

