

2024 Bacteria Data - Warren Harbor Sites: Fecal coliform and enterococci

In Rhode Island two groups of bacteria are monitored to indicate the presence of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms - fecal coliforms and enterococci. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIHealth) uses a single-value enterococci standard for licensed swimming beaches. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) uses a geometric mean approach for contact recreation standards on all other waters (fresh and salt). In addition, as required by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program for shellfish waters and their tributaries and as an indicator of overall water quality, RIDEM assesses fecal coliform levels.

While URIWW's analytical laboratories are certified by the State, URIWW data is intended for screening purposes only. Our data are very valuable for targeting areas of concerns and for tracking potential sources of bacterial contamination. Any result above the state standard is considered unsafe, and swimmers should refrain from swimming until results return to acceptable levels, or at least for several days after heavy rain.

RI Department of Environmental Management fecal coliform standards:

Shellfish Waters - Not to exceed 14 fecal coliform per 100 mL (Exceedence indicated by **RED text**).

Warren Harbor Sites Fecal Coliform Data

Watershed code	Monitoring Location	19-May	16-Jun	14-Jul	11-Aug	8-Sep	20-Oct	GEOMEAN
		----- Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform per 100 mL -----						
WA	Palmer River @ Wallis Street	73	10	-	-	-	-	<10
WA	Warren River - Ginalski	63	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
WA	Warren River - Wharf Tavern ROW	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
WA	Warren River - Bridge Street Access	20	10	-	-	-	-	<10
WA	Warren River - Jacobs Pt	31	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
MH	Kickemuit - Broken Bridge	31	-	-	-	-	-	-
MH	Kickemuit - Shore Drive	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10

Warren Harbor Sites Enterococci Data

Watershed code	Monitoring Location	19-May	16-Jun	14-Jul	11-Aug	8-Sep	20-Oct	GEOMEAN
		----- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL -----						
WA	Palmer River @ Wallis Street	75	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
WA	Warren River - Ginalski	109	<10	-	-	-	-	10
WA	Warren River - Wharf Tavern ROW	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
WA	Warren River - Bridge Street Access	41	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
WA	Warren River - Jacobs Pt	20	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
MH	Kickemuit - Broken Bridge	<10	-	-	-	-	-	-
MH	Kickemuit - Shore Drive	10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10

The Warren Harbor Commission initiated monitoring of the embayments along the Warren and Palmer Rivers as part of an effort to foster shellfish restoration in these areas.

RIDEM Primary Contact Recreational/Swimming Geometric Mean Density (Geomean):

Not to exceed 35 enterococci per 100 mL. (Exceedences in red)

RIHealth standards at licenced beaches: Not to exceed 60 enterococci per 100 mL



Safe Routes to School project will replace the Broken Bridge, destroyed in the 1938 Hurricane, with a pedestrian bridge in Warren (Image from <https://www.dot.ri.gov/projects/BrokenBridge/index.php>)