**ROWE BOARD OF HEALTH BATHING BEACH TESTING AND NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL**

In Massachusetts, bathing beach water quality is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the local Health Department. The purpose of the Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches State Sanitary Code (105 CMR 445.000) is to protect the health, safety and well-being of the users of bathing beaches, to establish acceptable standards for the operation of bathing water and to establish a procedure for informing the public of any bathing water closures.

The MDPH recommends the following for fresh water…

For Fresh Water, the indicator organisms shall be E. coli or Enterococci.(1) No single E. coli sample shall exceed 235 colonies per 100 ml. and the geometric mean of the most recent five E. coli samples within the same bathing season shall not exceed 126 colonies per 100 ml.

The Rowe Board of Health tests the following beach location **once a week** during the bathing beach season:

**PELHAM LAKE**

A Certified Operator collects two samples three (3) feet from the shoreline; one (1) from the right side of the beach and one (1) from the left side of the beach.

Laboratory analysis of bathing water (105 CMR 445.000) is conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of the Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Waste Water of the American Public Health Association or as approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Operators must submit routine testing reports to the BOH within five days of receipt of the results. If the report indicates bacterial levels exceeding the established standards the operator must report to the BOH within 12 hours of receipt of the results.

If a beach water sample should exceed 235 colonies per 100ml for E. Coli or should the geometric mean be above 126, the BOH will immediately close the beach and post it as such. The beach will not be re-opened until the beach has been resampled and the water sample has come back below the maximum allowable MDPH level.

In the event a sample exceeds the maximum level, **Notification Protocol** will be in the following order:

* Board of Health Chair
* Senior Member
* Junior Member

The Park Ranger and the BOH Clerk will also be notified.

In the event a sample exceeds the maximum level, signs posted must contain specific pieces of information:

* "Warning! No Swimming. Swimming May Cause Illness"
* The reason for the posting
* The date of the posting
* The name and phone number for the BOH
* A graphic depicting a swimmer in a red circle with a diagonal hash mark

Signs must be posted at the parking area and each entrance to the beach itself. The Park Ranger will ensure that enough signs are posted at the beach to give ample warning to the public.

Adopted at the June 18th, 2014 BOH meeting by:

Jennifer Morse, Chair David Cousineau Joann Brown