

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 16, 2004 9:30am

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### **Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency**

**Memorial Park Beach on Messenger Lake re-opened for swimming as of 9:30pm today. Water sample results fall within acceptable limits.**

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency announced this morning that the Memorial Park Beach on Messenger Lake in Branch County can now **open** for swimmers as of 9:30am today, July 16, 2004. The beach has been closed since July 9, 2004 due to elevated levels of *E. coli* bacteria in the water. Water samples taken July 14, 2004, by the Community Health Agency Environmental Health staff show that the water has now returned to acceptable levels for swimming. The threshold for *E. coli* in a public swimming area is a count of 300 per 100ml of water. The tested level from the July 14<sup>th</sup> sample was 88. Environmental Health staff will continue to monitor the beach throughout the summer as part of the statewide public beach monitoring program.

You can find information about the statewide monitoring program, beach closings, monitoring efforts and *E. coli* test results at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality web site.

[www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/public/default.asp](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/public/default.asp)

For additional local information about this program in the tri-county area, please visit our web site at

[www.bhsj.org/eh/eh\\_beach.htm](http://www.bhsj.org/eh/eh_beach.htm)