



Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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"Your Local
Health Department"

NEWS RELEASE
May 21, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"No Contact" Health Advisory Issued

Officials of the Hillsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant have notified the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (CHA), that approximately 75,000 to 100,000 gallons of partially treated sewage effluent was discharged into the St. Joseph River at 10:15 a.m. today. The discharge resulted from a loss of power at the plant.

Persons are advised to avoid any body contact with the St. Joseph River downstream from the Hillsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant through at least Jonesville. This advisory includes any body contact with the river for activities such as swimming, canoeing or fishing. The advisory is in effect until water samples from the river have been analyzed and demonstrate that coliform levels are back at normally expected amounts. Anyone having contact with the river after 10:15 a.m. today is advised to take a shower and wash any clothing that also was in the river.

Numerous infectious diseases are associated with contact with fecal coliform and this advisory has been issued as a precautionary measure to protect the public's health.

Additional information regarding fecal coliform is posted on the CHA website under the "Quick Info About Health Topics" tab at www.bhsj.org.

To receive more information about local health services that can help protect you and your family, visit our webpage at www.bhsj.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/

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