



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

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570 N. Marshall Road  
Coldwater, MI 49036  
(517) 279-9561  
Fax (517) 278-2923

20 Care Drive  
Hillsdale, MI 49242  
(517) 437-7395  
Fax (517) 437-0166  
[www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org)

1110 Hill Street  
Three Rivers, MI 49093  
(269) 273-2161  
Fax (269) 273-2452

"Your Local  
Health Department"

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**May 24, 2017**

**Rebecca Burns, Health Officer**  
517-279-9561, ext. 0148#

**Paul Andriacchi, Environmental Health Director**  
517-279-9561, ext. 0229#

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **"No Contact" Health Advisory Lifted**

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (CHA) is advising residents that they can again utilize the St. Joseph River for recreational activities.

Officials of the Hillsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant had 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 on Sunday, May 21, 2017 due a loss of power at the plant. This discharge resulted in CHA issuing a "No Contact" Health Advisory for the river from the area downstream of the Hillsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant through Jonesville, MI.

Water samples collected by personnel from the Hillsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> with results reported to CHA on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> show that the water in the St. Joseph River now contains levels of fecal coliform generally expected to be present.

Numerous infectious diseases are associated with contact with fecal coliform and the advisory, which is no longer in effect, had been issued as a precautionary measure to protect the public's health.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](http://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](http://www.bhsj.org) and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/](http://www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/)

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