



Public Health Administration

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Public Health Issues No-Swim Advisory for Big Chico Creek Due to E. Coli Risk

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – Butte County Public Health (BCPH) is warning residents not to swim or play in areas of Big Chico Creek. These areas include Big Chico Creek throughout Upper Bidwell Park to Sycamore Pool at One Mile Recreation Area. The no-swim advisory for Sycamore Pool remains in effect.

This expanded no-swim advisory follows reports of children being hospitalized after swimming in Sycamore Pool and Five Mile Recreation Area. Patient testing has confirmed the presence of a **special species of E. coli called O157**, which can cause serious illness, including severe dehydration, hospitalization and possible kidney failure.

Out of an abundance of caution, and after consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health and the City of Chico, BCPH is expanding the no-swim advisory while investigations continue.

“In the coming days, we’ll work with the CDC to test water and sediment at several popular spots throughout Big Chico Creek. We hope this testing will help to ensure future water safety in these areas,” said Dr. Jarett Beaudoin, Butte County Public Health Officer.

How to Stay Safe in Natural Waterways

When swimming or recreating in rivers, creeks, or lakes, always take these precautions:

- Wash your hands before eating or drinking.
- Keep water out of your mouth.
- Be cautious with babies and toddlers—they often swallow water by accident.
- Use properly fitted swim diapers for young children who aren’t potty trained.
- Use restrooms if available.
- Rinse off with clean water after swimming.
- Don’t swim if you have open wounds or have had diarrhea in the past 2 weeks.
- Dispose of food waste in trash containers and never leave food unattended—it attracts wildlife.
- Pick up after pets and throw away waste properly.

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