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DHD#10 URGES PUBLIC TO AVOID WATER CONTACT IN BACKWATERS OF WHITE RIVER IN WHITE CLOUD, NEWAYGO COUNTY

June 28, 2024 – On Friday, June 28, 2024, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) was notified by Ferris State University that they collected bacterial samples from the backwaters of White River, in White Cloud, Newaygo County. Ferris State University reported that two samples showed elevated E. coli levels and will continue to sample until the levels are reduced.

Residents and visitors should be advised of unusually high levels of E. coli bacteria in the backwaters of White River in White Cloud, Newaygo County. When swimming or conducting other water activities during periods of high bacterial levels, the risk of becoming ill from contamination increases. Children, the elderly, and individuals with weakened immune systems are the most at risk. Flu-like symptoms such as diarrhea, abdominal cramping, fever, and dehydration can occur from exposure to contaminated water. Upper respiratory illnesses, such as ear, nose, and throat infections, may also occur, in addition to skin infections if an open wound is not properly protected.

Ferris State University is continuing to collect samples and results will be reported by Ferris State University and DHD#10 when available. DHD#10 urges residents and visitors to avoid the backwaters of White River in White Cloud, Newaygo County until the samples indicate the E. coli levels have been reduced.

For up-to-date results, please visit EGLE's BeachGuard site: https://www.egle.state.mi.us/beach/.

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