

Nantasket Beach near top of list for water quality

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Beach	6 year average	2017 safety rating	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
M Street	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%
Carson	99%	100%	100%	97%	100%	99%	99%
Nantasket	99%	98%	100%	100%	98%	100%	98%
City Point	99%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Pleasure Bay	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	96%	94%
Revere	97%	98%	98%	92%	100%	94%	100%
Winthrop	97%	94%	100%	100%	94%	94%	100%
Nahant	96%	100%	97%	98%	100%	91%	89%
Savin Hill	94%	94%	100%	94%	87%	100%	88%
Constitution	94%	95%	96%	89%	96%	97%	89%
Wollaston	91%	92%	93%	86%	94%	88%	93%
Malibu	89%	91%	97%	87%	93%	76%	89%
Short	91%	80%	88%	84%	100%	94%	100%
King's	85%	92%	83%	76%	88%	83%	86%
Tenean	81%	81%	92%	71%	95%	63%	82%
All Beaches	94%	94%	96%	92%	96%	92%	94%

(Left) Beachgoers enjoy an early start to the unofficial start of summer as they enjoy Nantasket Beach on a summery day, Friday, May 25, 2018. Gary Higgins/The Patriot Ledger. (Right) 2018 Metropolitan Beaches Water Quality Report Card by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

HULL – Nantasket Beach was one of the top Boston-area metropolitan beaches for water quality last year, according to a study by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, while Quincy’s Wollaston Beach was toward the bottom of the list.

Water from 15 public beaches in 10 communities were tested during the 2017 beach season, including beaches in Hull, Quincy and Dorchester. The beaches tested were deemed safe for swimming 94 percent of the time, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay says. That’s a slight decline from the 96 percent reported last year.

The study examined how often water samples exceeded 104 colony-forming units of bacteria per milliliter, which is considered the safe level, and it evaluated the accuracy of posted swimming advisories.

Four Nantasket locations are tested weekly for bacteria. The Hull beach scored slightly lower than the previous season, but only one of the 60 samples tested exceeded the safe bacteria level.

At Wollaston Beach, 29 samples exceeded the safe bacterial level. There were 31 full and partial red flag postings in the 2017 season.

Nantasket and Wollaston post red flags when bacterial counts exceed the safe level at three or more sampling locations.