



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

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May 17, 2019

Capital Regional District
Board of Directors
c/o Colin Plant, Chair
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

To: Capital Regional District Board of Directors,

RE: BEACH WATER SAMPLING

The District of Saanich Council is requesting that the Capital Regional District (CRD) undertake beach sampling as a public health service for the region.

Historically, Island Health has provided the service of sampling, testing, and notification of beaches' water quality on Vancouver Island to ensure the safe enjoyment for beachgoers. Island Health has typically provided the service from May to September but last fall notified several local governments and regional districts that they would be discontinuing the collection of beach samples for the 2019 summer season and beyond. Island Health will, however, continue with testing and assisting local jurisdictions with notifications when required.


Given the season in which testing is typically conducted has already started, the District of Saanich will be posting signs indicating the change in service from Island Health and to notify users of their risk. This will provide an initial notification to beachgoers until an alternative service model is established. Although there's no legislation requiring the service to be provided by local jurisdictions, it's important to recognize the service does represent an important health notification to the beachgoers of the region.


The change of service has an impact to a number of jurisdictions in the region including: Capital Regional District, City of Langford, City of Colwood, City of Victoria,

District of Central Saanich, District of Metchosin, District of Highlands, District of Oak Bay, Township of Esquimalt, District of North Saanich, and the District of Saanich. It seems practical that the water sampling continue as a regional Service by the Capital Regional District who are best positioned with the necessary training, equipment, and economy of scale to support the continuation of this service.

Saanich Council welcomes a conversation with the CRD to undertake this service in a timely manner in order to re-establish the service for the current 2019 season.

Yours truly,



 Fred Haynes
Mayor

cc:

City of Langford Mayor & Council
City of Colwood Mayor & Council
City of Victoria Mayor & Council
District of Central Saanich Mayor & Council
District of Metchosin Mayor & Council
District of Highlands Mayor & Council
District of Oak Bay Mayor & Council
Township of Esquimalt Mayor & Council
District of North Saanich Mayor & Council
District of Saanich Mayor & Council

FH/rm