

## Water Quality Testing at Lake Summerside

The SSRA, in a crucial partnership with Alberta Health Services, conducts weekly water sampling for Enterococcus (fecal contamination) during the summer beach water monitoring season.

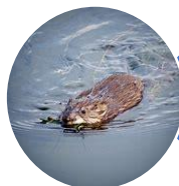
Enterococci, bacteria found in the intestinal tract of people and animals, can contaminate the water.

This can occur when birds or animals defecate in the water or along the shoreline, or when residents drain pools or trailers into the lake. Indirect sources of contamination include rain or snow runoff from contaminated lands such as dog parks, common walkways, and yard areas near the lake. It's important to note that Lake Summerside has a clean record with no issues of fecal contamination. In the unlikely event of an advisory, the SSRA will promptly inform Summerside residents through signage at the beach and on the SSRA website. Alberta Health Services will also issue a warning on their website at: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/Page1926.aspx>

## Potential Sources of Fecal Contamination



Wild birds, geese, and ducks



Wildlife such as muskrats



Pets defecating near the water in yards and dog parks

## Why is This a concern?

Exposure to Enterococcus, especially through cuts and scrapes, can lead to infections that are challenging to treat. Additionally, contact exposure can cause stomach flu-like symptoms. These health risks underscore the importance of our collective efforts to maintain the water quality at Lake Summerside.

## What Can Residents Do to Protect the Water Quality at Lake Summerside?

- Keep pets on a leash when walking along common pathways and clean up after them immediately
- Regularly clean up pet waste in your yard area
- Keep dogs off the ice in the winter to ensure there is no waste entering the lake when the ice thaws in the spring
- People should use the public washrooms provided at the beach area
- Dispose of garbage appropriately so as not to attract birds and other wildlife to the area
- Do not dump anything into the water that may attract wildlife (.i.e. Fish parts or trimmings)
- Do not empty pools and trailer tanks into the lake or on the ground near the lake
- Volunteer with the SSRA bird deterrent program

If you have any questions or concerns about this, don't hesitate to contact the SSRA.

## References

Alberta Health. (2021, May 13). *Alberta Safe Beach Protocol*. Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460145395>