FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler beaches remain closed awaiting acceptable ocean water tests

October 14, 2016 – Flagler beaches remain closed until ocean water tests return with normal levels of enterococci bacteria. Tests are regularly taken at six locations within Flagler County by the Flagler Health Department, and some of the test results from samplings five days after Hurricane Matthew returned higher than normal levels of enterococci bacteria.

Results at Washington Oaks, Beverly Beach, and Gamble Rogers were high enough to warrant the issuance of an advisory. Samples both north and south of the pier were elevated.

“We recommend posting an advisory when the test results come back at 70 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of water,” said John Bey, Environmental Health Director.

The Health Department is retesting water today, Friday, and the results of those tests are expected Saturday afternoon.

“We want to see what the new test results are before we reopen the beaches,” Flagler County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “We know people want to get back to the beaches they love – they are one of our greatest assets here in Flagler. We need to make sure that everyone is safe.”

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