



Standard Operating Procedures

Bacteria Screening Method

In order to detect how long high bacteria concentrations persist in local waterbodies and to screen for instances when authorities should be notified, GBF's Bacteria Samplers are now asked to assist with a new screening method for bacteria. If bacteria concentrations from a single site are recorded over a threshold of greater than or equal to five times the single sample contact recreation standard of 104 CFU/100 mL (i.e. greater than 520 CFU/100 mL), then the following steps should be carried out:

1. Lab manager notifies volunteer of a sample reaching over the threshold listed above
2. Bacteria Sampler decides if it is possible for them to collect a second sample as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours of the initial sample
 - a. If a second sample is to be collected, it is collected using the proper methods of bucket collection and bacteria sample collection (following GBF Field Guide)
3. Data for this new sample is collected on a new datasheet
 - a. Datasheet must include: multiple choice field observations, precipitation, tide stage, and comments
 - b. Optional parameters: Secchi measurements, temperature, DO, pH, and salinity

If bacteria concentrations from one location are recorded above this threshold more than 6 times in succession (as listed in the steps above) or over a period of 6 months in a row (even if second samples collected through the steps above indicate the high concentrations of bacteria do not persist), then authorities will be contacted by the Galveston Bay Foundation.

