

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RECENT SEWER SPILL IMPACTING THE CLEAR CREEK ESTUARY, DYES INLET, AND PORT WASHINGTON NARROWS

### WHAT IS A NO-CONTACT ADVISORY?

During a no-contact advisory, the public is advised to avoid contact with the water in the affected area. This means no swimming, wading, or types of water play where water could be swallowed or get in the mouth, nose or eyes.

### CAN I GET SICK IF I PLAY OR SWIM IN THE WATER?

Yes, it is possible, but not a huge risk unless you ingest water or eat shellfish collected in the impacted area. If you have contact with the water, you should immediately wash your hands with soap and water.

### CAN MY PET GET SICK IF IT PLAYS OR SWIMS IN THE WATER?

It is possible since animals can ingest water while swimming.

### IS IT SAFE TO BOAT, KAYAK OR CANOE IN THE AFFECTED AREAS?

Generally yes, since you are unlikely to ingest water while boating or kayaking. You should wash your hands with soap and water and rinse your boat off after boating or kayaking in affected areas. Additionally, with small boats there is a risk of capsizing. If you do capsize, avoid ingesting water and shower thoroughly afterward.

### CAN I EAT SHELLFISH COLLECTED FROM THE AREAS INCLUDED IN THE CLOSURE

No. There is an existing recreational shellfish harvesting closure for portions of Dyes Inlet and all of Port Washington Narrows due to non-point pollution. Due to the spill, however, all shellfish harvesting in Dyes Inlet and Port Washington is closed. You should not collect or consume shellfish, crabs or fish from any part of Dyes Inlet unless it was harvested prior to 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 30 or commercially harvested.

### WILL I GET IN TROUBLE IF I SWIM IN AN AFFECTED AREA DURING THE ADVISORY?

No. A no-contact advisory is an advisory or a recommendation. Because there is a risk of becoming sick, we are advising people to avoid contact with the water as a precaution, but there is no enforcement of the advisory.

### IS THE SMELL AT LOW TIDE CAUSED BY THE SEWER SPILL?

Unless you are near the location of the broken pipe, it is unlikely you are smelling the sewer spill. The sewer-like smell that sometimes occurs during low tide, especially on hot summer days, is the bacteria decomposing seaweed on the shoreline.

### HOW LONG WILL THE NO-CONTACT ADVISORY BE IN EFFECT?

The advisory will be in effect through Thursday, August 6, 2015.

Information on swimming beach closures is available online at [www.kitsappublichealth.org/beaches](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/beaches), by calling 1-800-2BE-WELL (1-800-223-9355), on [Facebook](#), and by text/email alerts ([www.kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe)).



KITSAP PUBLIC  
HEALTH DISTRICT

345 6th Street  
Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337

360-337-5235 t.  
360-337-5291 f.

[kitsappublichealth.org](http://kitsappublichealth.org)