



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH
2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6111

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6051

**ADMINISTRATION &
MEDICAL EXAMINER**
2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6100

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT &
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS**
2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6100

www.gtchd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **July 18, 2020**

Contact: Emmy Schumacher
Public Information Officer
(231) 493-8376

Arthur Krueger
Director of Municipal Utilities
(231) 922-4900 Ext. 109

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

From approximately 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., July 18, 2020, there was an accidental release of untreated sewage into the Boardman River from a sewer manhole near the intersection of North Union Street and Front Street in the City of Traverse City. The sewage spill was the result of the sanitary sewer system becoming overwhelmed during heavy rains and flash flooding. Therefore, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) has issued a no body contact advisory with surface waters in the following areas:

- The Boardman River from the pedestrian bridge near the Michigan Department of Natural Resources weir downstream to the mouth at West Grand Traverse Bay.
- Private beachfront property east of the Boardman River to Bryant Park.
- The following public beaches along West Grand Traverse Bay:
 - Clinch Park Beach
 - Sunset Park Beach
 - Bryant Park Beach
 - Traverse City Senior Center Beach

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has been contacted and will be working with Grand Traverse County Health Department officials as well as officials with the City of Traverse City Department of Municipal Utilities to monitor the spill. This is the third spill in the same location in less than two months. A combination of aging infrastructure and high groundwater levels are significant factors affecting the base flow in the sewer system serving the west side of the city. The sewer system is not able to handle increased flows during heavy rain events, which then causes an overflow. The City's Department of Municipal Utilities is working on short term and long term options to fix the problem.

This advisory will remain in effect until further notice. Once water testing results demonstrate that the affected waters meet EGLE standards for E.coli, the advisory will be lifted.

More information and updates will be forth coming.