

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAGLE ISLAND STATE PARK WILL RE-OPEN SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014

EAGLE (July 25, 2014) - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) Central District Health Department (CDHD), and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced today that the swimming area at Eagle Island State Park will re-open Saturday morning, July 26, 2014.

After receiving reports of illness, IDPR closed the swimming area on July 14, 2014. Norovirus was determined to be the cause.

“In partnership with the CDHD and DEQ, we’ve taken extensive measures to address the recent concern and cause of illness at Eagle Island State Park,” said Keith Hobbs, IDPR Operations Administrator. “In accordance with instruction received from the CDHD and DEQ, lake levels were lowered and impacted facilities thoroughly disinfected. The lake has been refilled and water testing has occurred throughout this process.”

DEQ collected numerous water samples throughout the swim area and surrounding lake. “Samples were tested for E. coli bacteria and levels were within safe limits for recreational use” said Lance Holloway, DEQ Watershed Manager.

IDPR will continue to closely monitor water quality ensuring the safety of park visitors.

CDHD would like to remind the public disease-causing germs can live in any lake or stream and people play an important role in preventing the spread of germs. Visitors can help keep the swimming areas open and accessible at Eagle Island State Park.

“We all have a responsibility to prevent illness in ourselves and keep our waters clean. Avoid swallowing water or getting water in your mouth and never swim when you are ill. This will help keep your family healthy and prevent the spread of disease to others,” said Kimberly Link, Program Manager for Communicable Disease Control at CDHD.

CDHD urges everyone to follow these steps to help reduce the spread of recreational water illnesses:

1. Never swallow recreational water and avoid getting water in your mouth when swimming.
2. Never swim when you have diarrhea and stay out of recreational water for at least three days after symptoms resolve. This is especially important for kids in diapers.
3. Change diapers in a bathroom or separate area, not on the beach or poolside.
4. Always wash your hands after using the restroom and before eating.
5. Take your kids on regular bathroom breaks or change diapers often, and use swim diapers. Waiting to hear "I have to go" may mean it's too late.

To report suspected recreational water illness, please call CDHD at (208) 327-8625 or email WebCD@cdhd.idaho.gov.

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