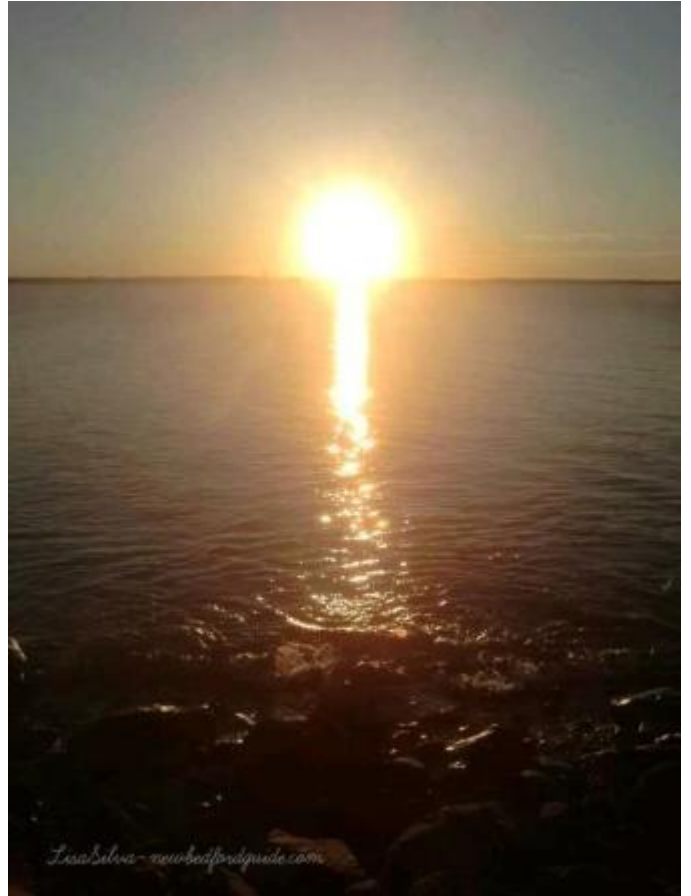


East and West Beaches Closed to Swimming Today

The New Bedford Health Department has announced that East Beach located along East Rodney French Boulevard and West Beach located along West Rodney French Boulevard, as well as the beach inside Fort Taber Park are closed to swimming today.



Significant rainfall over the last 24 hours has raised the threat of elevated bacteria levels at these locations. The region received heavy rainfall yesterday with New Bedford receiving 1.75 inches. City officials have closed New Bedford's beaches to swimming as a precautionary measure to protect public health.

The water at these beaches will be tested daily until acceptable water quality levels are obtained and swimming can resume. Further updates regarding openings and closures will be made as water quality results are received.

Additional information is available by calling the New Bedford Health Department at (508) 991-6199.