

Town Manager Alexander Diaz has been responding to Residents' questions regarding water safety, one of which is included below.

Q: *If the bacteria is not caused by a defect in Town facilities, why does the issue seem to be isolated to our area and not affect other nearby communities?*

A: Town's request from the State to have regular testing has allowed us to detect the appearance of bacteria in our area. It is important to note that not all beaches in the area are tested, and when they are, the distance between testing sites are very spread out. Two years ago the State and County stopped testing all beaches as part of budget cutbacks and now perform random testing. That same year, the Council and I began hiring the State to perform weekly tests at various locations on our beach as a precautionary measure. The Town now receives weekly test results that we closely monitor for any changes. As far as possible disparities with our waters and those of other local municipalities, I cannot speak as to what decisions other municipalities have made as far as water testing, but we feel it is important to regularly monitor our portion of the beach. Budget cuts often affect municipalities' ability to perform water monitoring at the same level of frequency that Golden Beach has chosen to adhere to. We feel it is important to the health and quality of life of our Residents to know the condition of our water. The Town also acknowledges the bacterial bloom has emerged at the same time that we've seen an increased appearance of seaweed on our shores. The Town administration is actively looking into both issues, and the correlation that may exist between the two.

Please feel free to reach out to the Town Manager should you have any additional questions or concerns, (305)932-0744 ext 224 (office), (786)236-4211 (cell), alexdiuz@goldenbeach.us