

Safeswim Policy

Safeswim – Water Quality

Safeswim is a joint initiative set up by Auckland Council, Watercare, Surf Lifesaving Northern Region and the Auckland Regional Public Health Service to help public awareness when swimming at Auckland beaches. Its aim is to provide forecasts of water quality, and real time alerts. The beaches will be marked with either a green, amber or red droplet, which indicates current predicted water quality. The web site address is safeswim.org.nz.

Green



Green Droplet – Waterwise operates under its usual guidelines. All activities permitted, sailing, kayaking, boogie boarding and swimming. All children participate in all activities

Red



Red Droplet– The shore line, where the water depth is less than 1.5m is the most contaminated. Contamination reduces significantly as the water becomes deeper. Note onshore waves can disturb the sediment, making contamination worse. In offshore conditions, flat water, the surface is most contaminated.

Waterwise coordinators assess condition. Instructors must be comfortable going into the shallow water.


School must have obtained written permission from parents to confirm they are happy for their child to take part in the sessions that run on a Red droplet day. Parents must check web site.

If session goes ahead there will be **No Swimming, no heads underwater**. Children with open wounds cannot enter the water.

School will have to work out a way to get their children over the shallow water into deeper safer water further out.

No Boogie Boarding

Kayaking – Children must be helped into kayaks (can be done on the beach) and launched by instructors/parent help. Children should not be launched from the beach when there are waves, as there is an increased risk of

			<p>them capsizing.</p> <p>Sailing - All children to wait on the beach while waiting to take their turn sailing. Care must be taken when children climb into optis.</p> <p>If a child capsizes they must be removed from the water and showered before re-commencing their session.</p> <p>All children to wash hands and face with soap provided at the end of their session.</p> <p>Each school must have a supply of waterproof plasters, in case of accidents. Cuts and grazes must be cleaned thoroughly and dried before applying plasters. Schools must also provide soap and or hand sanitizer.</p>
	Black		<p>Black droplet – Confirmed overflow from the Watercare network. Very high risk of illness from human pathogens.</p> <p>Cease all activities</p>