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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Burnette, PIO
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June 5, 2025

Public Health Advisory: Elevated E. Coli Levels in Delaware Creek

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has issued a public health advisory for the Delaware Creek due to elevated levels of E. coli bacteria detected during recent water testing.

The testing was conducted in response to a sewer system failure in the area last month, which has contributed to bacterial contamination in the creek. A sample collected on June 4 resulted in E. coli levels exceeding the maximum daily limit for the Maumee Watershed, as set by Ohio EPA.

Effective immediately, residents in the Beverly and Harvard Terrace neighborhoods should avoid all contact with water from the Delaware Creek, including wading, swimming, and fishing. This advisory is being issued to protect public health, as exposure to water contaminated with E. coli can cause serious illness, especially in young children, older adults, and individuals with weakened immune systems.

About E. coli:

Escherichia coli (E. coli) is a group of bacteria that normally lives in the intestines of healthy people and animals. While many strains are harmless, some can cause illness. Exposure to contaminated water can lead to symptoms such as:

- Diarrhea, which may be watery or bloody
- Stomach cramps and pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Low-grade fever
- Fatigue

Residents are advised to:

- Avoid contact with Delaware Creek water until further notice.
- Ensure children and pets do not play in or near the creek.
- Practice good hygiene, such as washing hands thoroughly after outdoor activities.

The advisory will remain in effect until water samples confirm that E. coli levels have returned to levels deemed safe by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

For updates and additional information, please visit www.lucascountyhealth.com or follow the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department on social media.

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