

Is It Safe to Swim?

Written by Administrator -

There is no simple answer to this question. People swim in many areas of the Potomac and its tributaries without incident. Coliform bacteria levels are used to gauge water contact safety, but only a few areas (designated bathing areas and oyster reefs) are monitored frequently for these organisms. A good rule of thumb is that bacterial levels tend to rise immediately after storms and usually fall a few days afterward. Swimming is prohibited in the waters of the District of Columbia. Your county Department of Health may have further information on streams in their jurisdiction.