

ALAMEDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Swimmers Itch Advisory at Alameda's Crown Beach (6/18/10)

Within the past two weeks, we have received several reports of alleged skin irritations, which occurred after contact with beach water along the shoreline at Crown Beach. It is believed that these are incidents of swimmer's itch. Other than the intense itching, there are no long term health effects from this exposure.

The cause of the skin irritation comes from accidental contact with a parasite that is released by marine snails in the shallow water. Swimmers and beach visitors can protect themselves by limiting exposure to the water, rinsing and toweling thoroughly after being in the water. For the past six years, swimmer's itch reporting usually coincides with the first warm period (May) and may last to early fall (September). If you have any questions on swimmer's itch or want to report cases, please call the Beach Water Monitoring Hotline at (510) 567-6706.