



HEALTHY LAND. CLEAN WATER. VIBRANT COMMUNITY.

For Immediate Release

August 7, 2018

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### Not enough Rain!

Sampling results from the fifth round of Friends of the Mad River's 2018 Mad River Watch water quality monitoring show **no sites with unfavorable *E. coli* levels** as of Monday morning. After many days of sun and just a few showers last week, the heavy rain shower on Saturday likely washed some pollutants off the landscape, into the water, and downstream prior to Monday's sampling. One site, however, at Couples Field in Waitsfield, showed an elevated *E. coli* value (133.3 colonies/100ml).

The river's discharge (volume per second) came down from 95 cubic feet per second (cfs) Sunday morning to reach 34 cfs on Monday morning at the US Geological Service flow gage in Moretown. The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was Low and Declining (LD). The mean flow for this date in the last 89 years is 140 cfs, so the water is much lower than usual at this time of year.

Remember that rains can cause *E. coli* levels to fluctuate, even on a daily basis, as water carrying pathogens moves down the watershed. FMR's *E. coli* sampling results are only a snapshot in time intended to give you a sense of the conditions that lead to high pathogen levels in the water so you can be informed. **You** are your best protector - use common sense and don't swim for several days after a rain. It is estimated that at the level of 235 colonies *E. coli* per 100 mL water, approximately 8 out of every 1,000 swimmers are likely to contract a water borne illness related to fecal contamination.

Many thanks to this week's volunteers: Charlie Baldwin, Doug Bergstein, Lindsay Browning, Susy Deane, Alison Duckworth, Annie & Julia Fender, Hillary Newton, Susanne & George Schaefer, and Michael Ware, as well as Friends' Lab Coordinator, Paula Baldwin.

For more information about *E. coli* and the Mad River Watch program visit [www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org](http://www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org). Throughout the summer, Mad River Watch results will be available in the Valley Reporter, on Facebook ("Friends of the Mad River"), and on sign posts at swimholes across the Valley. Friends of the Mad River is a community-supported organization committed to healthy land, clean water, and a vibrant community. Mad River Watch and other important programs depend on the generosity of community members; learn how to become a member and donate securely [online](#) at Friends' website.

##

August 6, 2018

SITE LOCATION	SITE #	Water Temp. °F	<i>E.coli</i> per 100ml *
Blueberry Lake	BBL	76	17.1
Warren Falls (Mad River)	1	65	12.0
Warren Store (Freeman Brook)	4	63	37.9
Warren Riverside Park (Mad River)	7	67	35.0
Lareau Swimhole (Mad River)	19	66	67.0
Couples Club Field (Mad River)	19.2	66	133.3
Waitsfield Covered Bridge (Mad River)	20	70	73.3
Meadow Road Bridge (Mad River)	23	69	78.0
Moretown Village Swim Access (Mad River)	27	72	25.7
Ward Swimhole (Mad River)	29	74	23.3

\* > 235 *E.coli*/100ml = Not suitable for recreation, according VT Department of Health and EPA

### **Data, Weather, and Flow Analysis**

Sampling results from the fifth round of Friends of the Mad River's 2018 Mad River Watch water quality monitoring show no sites with unfavorable *E. coli* levels as of Monday morning. After many days of sun and just a few showers last week, the heavy rain shower on Saturday likely washed some pollutants off the landscape, into the water, and downstream prior to Monday's sampling. One site, however, at Couples Field in Waitsfield, showed an elevated *E. coli* value (133.3 colonies/100ml).

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### **River Flow**

**LD - low and declining:** Rain brought a low river up earlier in the week, but the flow is dropping.

### **Thanks to this week's volunteers!**

Samplers - Charlie Baldwin, Doug Bergstein, Lindsay Browning, Susy Deane, Alison Duckworth, Annie & Julia Fender, Hillary Newton, and Michael Ware.

*E. coli* Lab Coordinator - Paula Baldwin

Posting Results - Doug Bergstein & Alison Duckworth

Transporting Samples - Susanne & George Schaefer