Hawke’s Bay has plenty of fantastic swim spots!

So you can swim through summer, we check more than 30 river and beach swim spots from Mahia to Porangahau! A simple look at hbrc.govt.nz and you’ll be good to go at your favourite swim spot.

Check some of our great swimming spots – Waipatiki Beach, the beaches around Mahia Peninsula, and all the southern coastal beaches from Ocean and Wairakura, Kairakau and Blackhead.

Tutaekuri River at Guppy Road is reliably good for a swim, but generally water quality in our rivers varies, depending on recent rain, so check before you go in.

Swim Thru Summer

Our Swim Thru Summer campaign is highlighting our great swimming spots in Hawke’s Bay, and how you can check that the water quality is good to go. Look for the Swim Thru Summer logo on our utes, when our monitoring staff are busy monitoring water quality at your beaches, rivers and lakes.

Check the Traffic Light

Hawke’s Bay Regional Council is now using the Can I Swim Here info on lawa.org.nz as our default swim spot safety tool.

LAWA uses a traffic light system –

- **GREEN** – suitable for swimming
- **AMBER** – caution advised
- **RED** – avoid swimming

New features coming on the Can I Swim Here tool will use recent rainfall and river flow data, even algal blooms, to change the status of a swim spot. Plus there’s plenty of information here to reassure you about the water quality.

On holiday? On the move?

LAWA is a great tool to use when you are travelling and want to find a beach with great water quality in another part of New Zealand.

We monitor water quality for you

Each week an environmental monitoring team of 3 head out to check popular coastal and river swimms spots around the region. The team includes 2 university students who must have the best holiday job ever!

They sample water in jars that go to an accredited lab to measure the levels of enterococci in coastal water or E.coli in rivers and lakes. These tell us the levels of disease-causing organisms in the water - the ones that can make you sick or cause breathing problems or skin and ear infections.

When a site shows poor water quality, we take another sample - Wairoa and CHB council staff give us a helping hand.

If there are high E.coli or enterococci levels, the District Health Board issues a health alert through media. They put up signs at these swim spots warning you to stay out of the water and the online data will show red! Please pay attention to these if you want to Swim Thru Summer.

How to Swim Thru Summer

Check water quality at hbrc.govt.nz.

Avoid swimming in rivers and beachess for 2-3 days after heavy rain. Rain can wash muck into rivers and beaches. You might end up with a skin rash, eye infection or sickness.

Rule of Toes: if you can’t see your toes when standing in water up to your shins, swim somewhere else.

Lagoons and coastal streams are shallow and warm – popular with kids, and a breeding ground for harmful bacteria! Please check the water quality info before you let children swim or play here.

Look out for soft black mats of algae in our stony rivers. It grows on rocks in the shallows and should be treated as toxic. Go somewhere else. Tell us where you see these mats so we can alert other river users.

Competition!

Send in your pics of you and your family or friends enjoying your favourite swimming spot and be in to WIN a rafting adventure. Post to Facebook tagged #swimthrusummer and include the location by 31 January 2018. Full competition details online at hbrc.govt.nz, search #swimthrusummer.