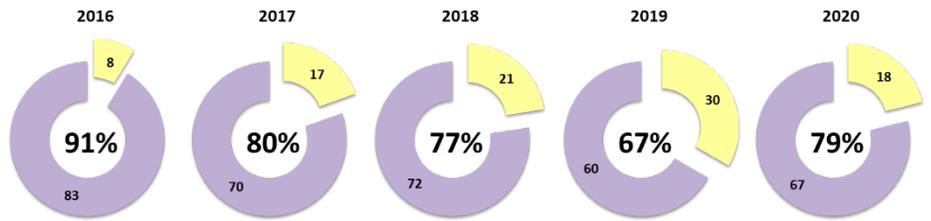
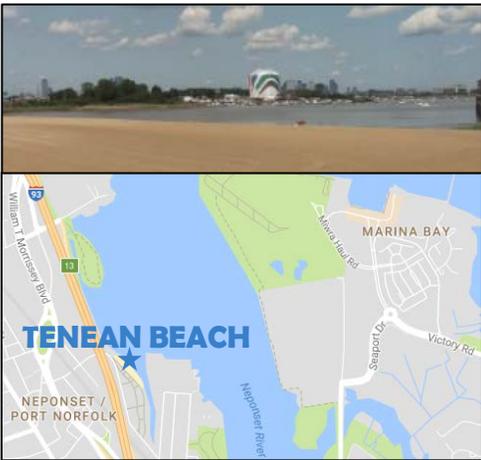


Tenean Beach

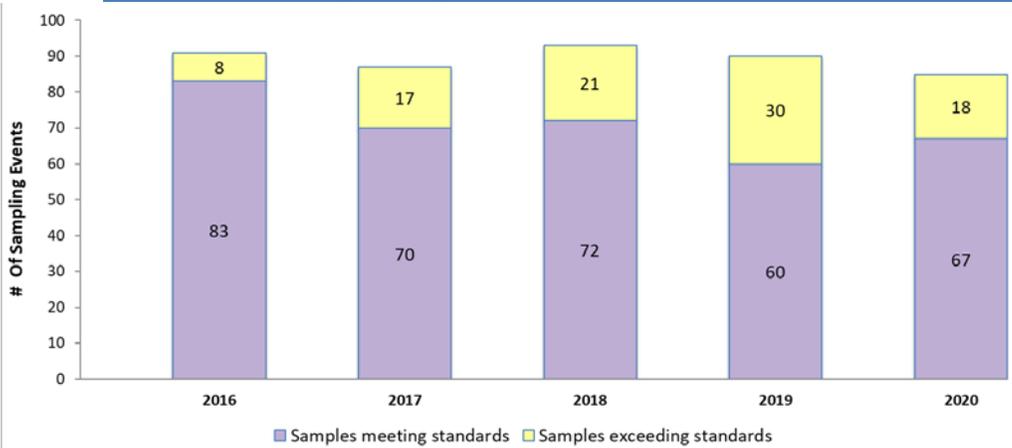
Water quality at Dorchester's Tenean Beach meets swimming standards much of the time.



In the last five years, 67% to 91% of water samples have met swimming standards at Tenean Beach. To meet the standard, a single sample must have *Enterococcus** levels of less than 104 counts in 100 milliliters (mL) of a beach water sample. Water samples are collected at Tenean Beach and analyzed in a laboratory to determine the *Enterococcus* counts. Purple represents the proportion of samples meeting the standard, with less than 104 counts per 100 mL of water; yellow represents the proportion with 104 counts per 100 mL of water or higher.

**Enterococcus* is a bacteria used as an indicator of fecal contamination in water

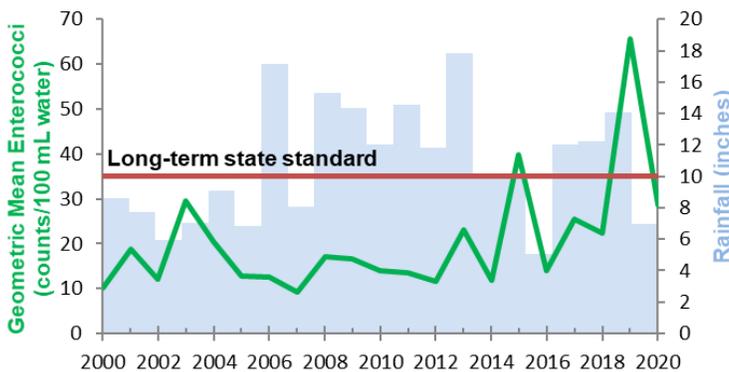
Water quality at Tenean Beach is monitored throughout the swimming season in compliance with Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) [beach testing guidelines](#), approximately from Memorial Day to Labor Day of each year. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages the beach posting program at [Tenean Beach](#), displaying blue flags at



the beach when bacteria levels meet single sample limits (less than 104 counts of *Enterococcus* per 100 mL of water), and red flags when bacteria levels fail to meet the limit. Red flags are also flown following extreme weather events. There are no combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that impact Tenean Beach. The nearby Commercial Point CSO facility was closed in 2006, part of [MWRA's long-term CSO Control Plan](#). Sources of bacteria at Tenean Beach include animal and bird waste and urban stormwater runoff in wet weather.

Historical Beach Water Quality and Rainfall

Historically, Tenean Beach has had mixed mean bacteria counts.



Enterococcus is a bacterial indicator of human and animal waste in marine waters, and its presence helps environmental managers determine if conditions might present a public health risk to swimmers. In addition to the single sample standard above, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that long-term *Enterococcus* levels are below a long-term standard of 35 counts per 100 mL of water in all recreational swimming areas. Long-term averages at Tenean Beach vary, but have historically been below this threshold, with 2015 and 2019 being exceptions.