

# Swimming in the wild in Moravian-Silesian Region

## General information on water quality and its assessment

Each bathing water may contain micro-organisms that can cause a variety of infectious diseases in humans, most often intestinal or stomach problems, less often, for example, febrile illnesses or inflammatory diseases of the ears and eyes. The origin of these diseases comes from the sewage, the faeces of animals that have been flushed into the water in the rain or even in the bodies of the bathers. Whether specific bathing water represents a significant risk for a human is determined using microbiological water analyzes. However, laboratories, in addition to special cases, do not detect the presence of pathogenic microorganisms, but only determine bacteria that are commonly found in the intestinal tracts of humans and animals and are harmless to humans. It has been shown that in places with a higher incidence of these bacteria, the disease caused by pathogenic microorganisms is much more likely. According to valid legislation, two groups of indicator bacteria are identified: *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci.

However, water control is not continuous and the incidence of contamination can change quite rapidly and significantly. That's why, with exceptions, only the aggregate results for the previous 4 bathing season are evaluated. Always after the bathing season, bathing water is classified into one of four categories - **excellent, good, acceptable or unsuitable**. This **classification** is always valid for the entire following bathing season.

There's also a risk of cyanobacteria in bathing water. Cyanobacteria can be seen in the water as green turbidity, round, needle-shaped or irregularly shaped green shapes, even a few centimeters. Cyanobacteria may produce substances harmful to human health (toxins, allergens), whose determination is not normally carried out. The very presence of cyanobacteria is already risky. Although the presence of cyanobacteria near the bathing site may change quite rapidly (eg weather, especially wind), the current assessment is more important (see below). However, the current bathing water rating may be favorable, but the situation does not appear to be in the spotlight. Since the last sampling, the situation could have significantly worsened. Therefore, always rely on your own judgment.

## Current rating

The current evaluation is mainly based on the occurrence of cyanobacteria or algae. However, other factors, such as microbial pollution, pollution of litter or natural material (eg large amounts of flooded plant material), may be reflected in it. Each analysis is classified into one of the following five categories:

### **Water suitable for swimming**

Safe water with low probability of occurrence of health problems in water recreation; water with satisfactory sensory sensitivities.

### **Water suitable for bathing with slightly degraded quality**

Safe water with low probability of occurrence of health problems in water recreation with degraded sensory properties. If possible, it is appropriate to take a shower after bathing.

 **Impaired water quality**

Slightly increased likelihood of health problems in water recreation, some susceptible individuals may experience health problems, after bathing is recommended to take a shower.

 **Water unsuitable for bathing**

The water does not meet hygienic requirements, and for the bather it poses a health risk; bathing cannot be recommended especially for sensitive individuals (ie children, pregnant women, allergy sufferers and people with weakened immune system).

 **Water dangerous for bathing**

The water does not meet hygienic requirements and there is a risk of acute health damage, and a ban on bathing is declared.

Details of the current evaluation are given in Annex 6 to Decree No. 238/2011 Coll.

**Other risks**

Keep in mind that the danger to bathers is not only associated with water quality but also, and to a much greater extent, with accidents, toning, drowning or sunlight. So do not over-estimate your power when you enter the water, do not jump into water where you do not know if there is enough depth and avoid excessive sunshine.

Current information on the quality of bathing water in the wild is available [here](#) in Czech language.



Žermanice



Hlučín





Kacabaja



Větrkovice