

“SWIMMER’S ITCH”

Historically, occasional episodes of “Swimmer’s Itch” (Schistosome Dermatitis) occur at Lake Temescal, Lake Anza, Shadow Cliffs, Crown Beach and Quarry Lakes beaches that can affect some bathers within the designated swim areas. Although the presence of the organism causing “Swimmer’s Itch” is relatively rare, the following information is being provided to you for your consideration.

“Swimmer’s Itch” is a skin irritation caused by free-swimming larvae, called a cercariae, from an organism associated with aquatic snails. These larvae are microscopic, however, their penetration of the skin can cause symptoms similar to mosquito bites. These symptoms usually develop within one to four hours after exposure.

Although there is little swimmers can do to protect themselves from this irritation, immediate showering and toweling off has been shown to reduce the severity of symptoms.

If you suspect that you have “Swimmer’s Itch”, please contact a lifeguard or call 510-544-2327 to report the incident. We regret any inconvenience or discomfort this may cause you.

There are no long-term effects from exposure to “Swimmer’s Itch”. Topical ointments may alleviate any discomfort caused by this organism, or you may wish to consult a physician.

Life Cycle:

