

Risk Results Interpretation Guide

Understanding Risk Values - What Do The Numbers Mean?

EXCELLENT	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	HIGH	CRITICAL
1e-08 to 1e-06	1e-06 to 1e-04	1e-04 to 1e-02	1e-02 to 1e-01	1e-01 to 1e+00
Very Low Risk - Exceeds all guidelines	Low Risk - Meets NZ drinking water standards	Moderate Risk - May need management	Action Required - Exceeds guidelines	Immediate Intervention Needed

Real-World Examples - What These Numbers Mean

Example 1: Low Risk Beach

Annual Risk: 2.4e-04
Population: 10,000
Expected Cases/Year: 2.4

About 2-3 people might get sick per year from swimming

Example 2: Moderate Risk Lake

Annual Risk: 1.2e-02
Population: 50,000
Expected Cases/Year: 600

About 600 people might get sick per year - needs action

New Zealand Regulatory Guidelines

Drinking Water Equivalent

Target: $\leq 1e-6$
Strictest standard - annual risk

Recreational Water

Target: $\leq 1e-3$
Per swimming event

Shellfish Consumption

Target: $\leq 1e-4$
Annual risk from eating shellfish