

Blue-green Algae Advisories and Warnings September 6, 2019

Hot summer weather can contribute to the production of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) in bodies of water that are used by people, pets and livestock. In some lakes, these blooms can persist into the early fall where they can pose a risk to hunters and their dogs. Blue-green algae discolor the water and can cause foam, scum or mats to appear on the surface. In severe blooms, the water can have the appearance of spilled green paint or green pea soup.

Blue-green algae can also produce toxins in the water called cyanotoxins. People and animals that swallow water containing cyanotoxins can become sick with diarrhea and vomiting. Other symptoms in people include numb lips, tingling fingers and toes; dizziness; or rashes, hives or skin blisters. The most common cyanotoxin found in North Dakota lakes experiencing a blue-green algae bloom is microcystin.

Blue-green algae blooms are extremely variable in terms of when and where they occur. There may be other lakes, reservoirs, ponds or wetlands in the state that are experiencing blooms in addition to those on this list. People should familiarize themselves with what a bloom looks like, and if they see one, avoid it and report it to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) through the on-line form at www.tinyurl.com/WMP-HABs.

The following list includes only those lakes where:

- 1) The NDDEQ has been notified of a bloom.
- 2) The NDDEQ has conducted testing for cyanotoxins.
- 3) The lake has been posted with an advisory or warning.

Advisory: A blue-green algae bloom is present in portions of the waterbody, and microcystin levels in those areas exceed the public health criteria of 10 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Avoid those areas of the waterbody where the bloom is present. The areas of the lake where there is no evidence of a bloom may still be used for water-based recreation (e.g., swimming, water skiing, kayaking and paddle boarding).

Advisories		
Lake Name	County	Date Posted
Lake Metigoshe – Bloom limited to southeast portion of North Lake	Bottineau	September 6
Stump Lake	Nelson	August 23
Beaver Lake	Logan	August 23
Homme Dam	Walsh	August 19
Buffalo Lake	Pierce	August 16
Jamestown Dam	Stutsman	August 8
Dry Lake	McIntosh	August 2
Long Lake NWR	Burleigh	August 2
Blumhardt Lake	McIntosh	August 2
Wilson Dam	Dickey	August 2
Schlecht-Thom Dam	LaMoure	August 2
Flood Lake	LaMoure	July 29
Patterson Lake	Stark	July 29
Bowman-Haley Dam	Bowman	July 29
Devils Lake - Bloom limited to East Bay	Ramsey - Benson	July 25
Sweetbriar Lake	Morton	July 12

Harmful Algal Blooms

WATER ADVISORY

This water may contain blue-green algae that can be harmful to humans and pets.

To reduce the risk of illness:

- Avoid swimming, waterskiing, or tubing if the water looks like spilled green paint or pea soup.
- Avoid swallowing water and watch small children and pets who may ingest water.
- Rinse off with non-lake water after contact with water.



WATER WARNING

This water contains high concentrations of blue-green algal toxins that can be harmful to humans and pets.

For your safety:

- Do not swim, waterski, or tube in the water.
- Do not swallow the water.
- Closely monitor small children and pets who may have ingested lake water.



General Safety Tips

Avoid areas of scum when boating.

While fish are safe to consume, take the following precautions.

- Rinse hands with non-lake water after landing fish.
- Wash fish thoroughly with tap water before cleaning.

Contact your health provider or veterinarian if you or your pet become ill after swimming.

For more information call the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality. 701-328-5210

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Warning: A blue-green algae bloom is present over a significant portion of the lake and excessive microcystin levels have been measured. Avoid contact with the water. Individuals should not take part in contact recreational activities (e.g., swimming, water skiing, kayaking and paddle boarding) or allow pets in the water.

Warnings		
Lake Name	County	Date Posted
Larson Lake	Hettinger	August 23
Froelich Dam	Sioux	August 23
Harmon Lake	Morton	August 16

On lakes with an advisory or warning:

- Avoid areas of scum when boating.
- While fish are safe to consume, take the following precautions.
 - Rinse hands with non-lake water after landing fish.
 - Wash fish thoroughly with tap water before cleaning.
- Contact your health provider or veterinarian if you or your pet become ill after swimming.

For more information contact:
Division of Water Quality
701.328.5210