



TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL
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Lake Chauncy is closed until further notice

Warning for Cyanobacteria (blue green algae) in Lake Chauncy Westborough.

The Westborough Public Health Department is issuing a Public Health advisory for cyanobacteria in Lake Chauncy. Cyanobacteria has been detected in the lake.

The algae bloom has the appearance of pea soup and is capable of producing toxins that can be dangerous to humans and pets.

The Lake has been posted for closure at multiple locations.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, can be dangerous to humans and animals. These microscopic organisms can produce toxic byproducts called cyanotoxins that can cause a range of health effects, from minor to life-threatening.

Exposure to cyanobacteria blooms can occur when people or animals:

- Touch, swallow, or inhale airborne droplets from water with blooms
- Eat contaminated fish or shellfish
- Use contaminated blue-green algae dietary supplements

Health effects can include:

- Diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting
- Skin, eye, or throat irritation
- Allergic reactions
- Breathing difficulties
- Red, raised rash

In pets and livestock, exposure can lead to illness or death if they consume large amounts of water containing blooms. Signs of illness in animals include:

- Loss of energy
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Stumbling and falling
- Foaming at the mouth
- Diarrhea
- Convulsions
- Excessive drooling
- Tremors and seizures

There is no antidote for cyanobacteria poisoning, and the prognosis is poor to grave for some animals, even with aggressive treatment. If you suspect your animal has been exposed to cyanobacteria, you should seek immediate veterinarian care.

Please contact the Health Department with any questions at 508-366-3045.

Jennifer Sullivan

Public Health Director