



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local News Media
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: Suspected Algal Bloom on Lake Isabella
Release Date: Immediately (September 9, 2022)

Suspected Algal Bloom on Lake Isabella, Broomfield and Sherman Townships

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD), working in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), would like to make residents aware of a suspected harmful algal bloom (HAB) identified on Lake Isabella in Isabella County. People and pets should avoid direct body contact with algal scums or mats in the lake, water that looks like it has a green or blue-green sheen or spilled paint on its surface, or water that looks like pea soup. To help identify a HAB and other lake conditions mistaken for HABs, visit the [HAB Picture Guide](http://www.michigan.gov/habs) at www.michigan.gov/habs.



There are different types of naturally occurring algal blooms that may be seen on lakes and rivers. Most algal blooms are not harmful. However, there are some that are a type of cyanobacteria that can produce toxins – causing a HAB. Cyanobacteria are naturally occurring in lakes, rivers, and ponds that can bloom when conditions are right. People and pets should avoid water-related activities and swallowing the lake water in areas where algal blooms are visible. Residents should remain cautious about contact with algal blooms because the amount of toxins and location of the bloom can change over time. Wind and wave action can move algal blooms around a lake. Unless the bloom covers a large portion of the lake, people can limit their exposure by using an unaffected part of the lake that does not have visible algal blooms.

Please visit us at our website www.cmdhd.org

Summer is peak season for the formation of HABs that can present health hazards to people and pets. In Michigan, algal blooms typically occur during periods of warm temperatures, lots of sun, and high nutrient levels. Be on the lookout for the presence of visible algae or scums on any lake. CMDHD provides the following reminders:

- Stay out of water that may have a HAB.
- Do not let your children or pets play in HAB debris on the shore.
- After swimming in lake water, even where no HABs are visible, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.
- Do not swallow lake water, whether you see HABs or not.
- Do not let pets drink lake or pond water in an area of an algal bloom.
- Do not cook with or drink lake water.
- See a doctor if you or your children might be ill from HAB toxins. If your pet appears ill, contact your veterinarian.

If you would like more information on harmful algal blooms, visit EGLE's Harmful Algal Bloom web page at www.michigan.gov/habs.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook.

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