

# News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**DATE:** August 30, 2007

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## State Posts Cyanobacteria Advisory for Forest Lake, Winchester

CONCORD, NH- The N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) has issued a cyanobacteria advisory for the Chase Park beach and boat launch located on Forest Lake, Winchester. The advisory was issued on August 30, 2007, after samples collected at the Forest Lake Town Beach revealed high cyanobacteria levels. The public advisory will remain in effect until additional samples reveal safe cyanobacteria levels. DES advises lake users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing cyanobacteria bloom conditions. DES also advises pet owners to keep their pets out of any waters that contain surface scums.

Due to the predicted weather over this upcoming weekend, conditions will be favorable for continued cyanobacteria growth. Lake residents should be on the look out for blooms in areas of the lake other than at the town beach. Shifting of the wind can also move the cyanobacteria bloom to other areas of the lake.

DES routinely monitors public beaches and lakes for cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria are natural components of many water bodies in New Hampshire. Cyanobacteria may bloom and form surface scums when excess phosphorus and ample sunlight are available. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells and released when the cells die. Toxins can cause both acute and chronic health effects ranging in severity from skin and mucous membrane irritations, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea to liver and central nervous system damage.

DES monitors and inspects designated public beaches throughout the state to better protect public health. Beach and lake users should be on the lookout for cyanobacteria scums. Often they form dense surface scums blue-green in color; or blooms may cause entire lakes to take on a blue-green hue. Sometimes they resemble paint chips or bright green balls floating in the water.

Visit the DES Beach Program website at [www.des.nh.gov/Beaches/cyanobacteria.html](http://www.des.nh.gov/Beaches/cyanobacteria.html) for photos and more information about cyanobacteria.

*If you notice anything resembling cyanobacteria, please refrain from wading, swimming, or drinking the water. Keep all pets out of the water and contact DES immediately. Thoroughly wash any skin that came into contact with the cyanobacteria bloom.*

For additional information about this advisory, please call the Beach Program at (603) 271-0698 or (603) 271-3414.

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