

How to Respond:

To a bloom sighting...

To a bloom exposure...



Wash your hands!

Below: "People wade through blue-green algae at Qingdao, the host city for sailing events at the 2008 Olympic Games, in eastern China's Shandong province."

Do not drink the water!



Keep pets out of the water!



Do not wade or swim in the water!

Pet Owners:



- Bring your own supply of drinking water.
 - Easy-to-carry, collapsible water dishes.
- Wash your pet after its been in a lake or pond.
 - Have an extra towel handy at the beach- wipe off any large clumps of cyanobacteria to prevent your dog from consuming it.
 - A bath helps prevent skin irritation *and* ingestion from your pet cleaning itself.
- If you think your pet has ingested cyanobacteria, call a vet immediately.
 - Some toxins can cause illness in as little as an hour; others can take up to 24 hours.
- Collect a sample of the bloom or scum.
- If your pet gets ill...
 - Fill out the NHDES Cyanobacteria Illness Report Form for Pets, available at the DES website, on Beach Program page!

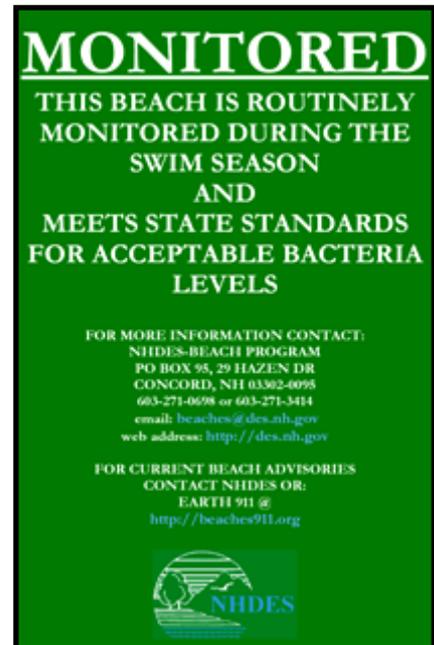


Beach Managers, Health Officers & Camp Directors:

- If you notice a bloom or a concerned beach user contacts you regarding a bloom or scum at the beach area...
 - Contact NHDES. Take pictures & collect a sample, if feasible.
- If possible, monitor the area of the bloom and advise swimmers to stay out of water.



- If / when an advisory is issued by DES...
 - Post the necessary sign to notify beach-users.
 - IF you do NOT have this sign, DES Beach Program will provide as many as you need, FREE of charge. Just ask!
- Leave signs up until advisory is no longer in effect.



Human Lake-Users:

- If exposed to a bloom...
 - Wash your hands and/or take a shower.
- To report a scum...
 - Call NHDES Cyanobacteria Hotline: 419-9229.
 - Call the local beach manager/ town office
- Take pictures, collect a sample.
- Stay out of the water until it returns to a normal appearance!
- IF you feel ill...
 - Visit a doctor & be sure to tell them you may have been exposed to cyanobacteria
 - Fill out NHDES Cyanobacteria Illness Report Form (available on DES website, Beach program page)



HOW TO COLLECT A CYANOBACTERIA SAMPLE:

1. CALL NHDES TO REPORT A SCUM: (603) 419-9229.

2. Take a picture and estimate the area covered by the bloom.

3. Collect a sample of the scum:

a. Use a clean plastic zip lock bag or bottle.

b. Place it on ice until it can be delivered to DES.

c. Note the specific location where the sample was collected.

d. Wash your hands.

4. Deliver the sample to DES Limnology Center in Concord, NH and provide the staff with your name and phone number.

5. A DES Limnologist will identify the sample and notify you with the results.

6. If the identified cyanobacteria are a species of concern, DES will post an advisory for the lake and/or beach, as necessary.

If you collect a sample on Friday afternoon or over the weekend, it needs to be refrigerated until you can deliver it to the DES on Monday. Limnology Center opens at 8 a.m.

➔ **At NO cost!**





Veterinarians:



- Ask the pet owner whether they have seen/ filled out the NHDES illness report form.
 - Available online: NHDES → Beach Inspection Program page.
- Use this form as a guideline for collecting information.
- Encourage pet owner to contact NHDES & report the bloom.



Why pets need vets



Medical Professionals:



- Ask the patient whether they have filled out the NHDES illness report form.

→ Once again, available at DES website:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/index.htm>

- Use this form as a guideline for collecting information.
- Encourage the patient to contact NHDES with any questions regarding cyanobacteria and to report the bloom.





Questions?



Thank you for your participation!