

## News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

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### Cyanobacteria Bloom Alert for Province Lake in Effingham/Wakefield, NH

Concord, NH- Continued cyanobacteria activity has been observed on Province Lake. A cyanobacteria advisory was lifted on 9/21/22. Since then, sporadic bloom material has appeared, and quickly dissipated before a sample could be reviewed. This past Saturday, the material resurfaced in some areas, appearing as thick bright green clouds along some shorelines. This message serves a local "Alert" for lake-goers to be on the lookout for accumulations of cyanobacteria, especially nearshore of the lake. NHDES advises lake users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing elevated cyanobacteria cell conditions, also known as a bloom. NHDES also advises pet owners to keep their pets away from cyanobacteria blooms. Please continue to report changing cyanobacteria conditions to [HAB@des.nh.gov](mailto:HAB@des.nh.gov), and we will coordinate sampling as needed.



Advisories are issued once samples are collected and cell concentrations of cyanobacteria are confirmed to exceed 70,000 cells/mL of lake water.

Cyanobacteria are natural components of water bodies worldwide, though blooms and surface scums may form when excess nutrients are available to the water. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells and may be released upon cell death. Toxins can cause both acute and chronic health effects that range in severity. Acute health effects include irritation of skin and mucous membranes, tingling, numbness, nausea, vomiting, seizures and diarrhea. Chronic effects may include liver and central nervous system damage. Be cautious of lake water that has a surface scum, changes colors, or appears to have green streaks or blue-green flecks aggregating along the shore.

Visit the NHDES Harmful Algal and Cyanobacteria Bloom Program website for photos and more information about cyanobacteria at: [Harmful Algal Blooms | NH Department of Environmental Services](#). Check out the [Beach Mapper](#) Website and follow the [Beaches Twitter](#) feed for updates on cyanobacteria advisories.

*If you notice anything resembling cyanobacteria, please refrain from wading, swimming, or drinking the water. Keep all pets out of the water and contact NHDES immediately. Please call NHDES to report a cyanobacteria bloom at (603) 848-8094 or email [HAB@des.nh.gov](mailto:HAB@des.nh.gov).*

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