



Public Health
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Ontario County Public Health



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blue Green Algae in Canandaigua Lake

Canandaigua Lake joins Seneca and Honeoye with Confirmed Algal Blooms

Hopewell- Results from water testing at the northern and middle section of Canandaigua Lake have confirmed the presence of blue-green algae. Blooms may spread to other locations by wind and currents.

Some blue-green algae blooms can produce toxins, some do not. However exposure to any blue-green algae can cause adverse health effects in people and animals when water with dense blooms is contacted or swallowed, or when airborne droplets are inhaled. For this reason the DEC and NYS Department of Health and Ontario County Public Health recommend that people and pets avoid any exposure to blue-green algae blooms.

Blue-green algae occur naturally in bodies of water in low numbers. During prolonged hot weather algae can become abundant, discoloring water and forming scums-particularly in warm, shallow areas. Symptoms of blue green algae exposure may include allergic reactions or eye, skin, nose, and throat irritation. Ingesting large amounts of water containing blue-green algae, or their associated toxins has resulted in liver and nervous system damage in laboratory animals, pets, livestock, and people.

People, pets, and livestock should avoid contact with water that has scums on the surface or is discolored-blue-green, yellow, purple, brown or red. If contact does occur, wash with soap and water or rinse thoroughly with clean water. Swimming, bathing or showering with water not visibly affected by a blue-green algae bloom is not expected to cause health effects. Individuals should consider medical attention if experiencing symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reaction or breathing difficulties post exposure. In addition, if you experience any symptoms, please contact Ontario County Public Health at 585-396-4343.

Lake residents should not drink untreated surface water. Home boiling, disinfecting (chlorine or UV), and filtering do **not** remove algal toxins. When using surface water to wash dishes, rinse with bottled water. New York State public water supplies that use surface water sources have operational controls to minimize the introduction of blue-green algae in drinking water.

For additional information, contact Ontario County Public Health or go to <http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae.htm>

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