



San Juan Public Health



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Algal Bloom Confirmed at Ken's Lake

Recreators asked to take steps to protect themselves while on or near the water.

Moab, Utah – Health officials confirmed a harmful algal bloom at Ken's Lake that has the potential to produce toxins. Although results from samples taken on September 6, 2023 show no toxins, this can change rapidly. Continued sampling of the lake will be performed. Residential drinking water is not affected. Those visiting Ken's Lake are asked to follow all posted warnings for the health watch.

Health officials encourage everyone recreating at or on Kens Lake to take the following actions:

- Do not ingest the water
- Use caution when swimming, wading and paddle boarding, avoid any areas that have visible algae, strong odors, or look discolored
- Keep animals away from the water
- Wash hands with clean water before eating or preparing food
- Clean fish well and discard guts

WHAT IS A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM?

Algal blooms are rapid, large overgrowths of cyanobacteria. They often form a visible scum on the surface of the water. During blooms, cyanobacteria may produce toxins that can pose a health risk to people, pets, and other animals.



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Even in the absence of these toxins, the cyanobacteria can cause gastrointestinal (GI) distress and skin irritation. These blooms can also pose serious health risks to pets, and livestock.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are tiny, plant-like organisms that live in lakes, streams, and reservoirs and use sunlight to grow.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM?

Water experiencing an algal bloom may look like pea soup, streaks of green or blue paint, or have a scum layer or mats/foam floating on the surface. The water may also appear in shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown, or red.

For concerns about possible human exposure, call Utah Poison Control at 800-222-1222, or your physician. For concerns about possible animal exposure, contact a local veterinarian. For concerns about possible livestock exposure, contact the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food at 801-538- 7100. Visit ag.utah.gov/harmful-algal-blooms for more information on irrigation water for crops or watering livestock. To learn more about harmful algal blooms, or to report a bloom, visit habs.utah.gov.

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