

Public Notice from the Village of Island Lake



When in doubt, Stay out!

Blue green algae (cyanobacteria) is a natural occurrence in many lakes across the country—especially with higher temperatures and increased precipitation. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, “Harmful algal blooms are a major environmental problem in all 50 states.”

Lake County Health Department recommends the following:

- *Don't swim.*
- *Minimize contact with lake water.*
- *Do not let pets play or drink from the water.*

The best way to stay safe is to stay out of the affected water and keep children and pets away. Never use the affected water for drinking, cooking, or bathing. If you are in contact with affected water, wash off thoroughly with soap and clean source of water.

Skin irritation or rash is the most commonly reported health effect from HAB exposure. Other symptoms range from diarrhea, cramps, vomiting, fainting, numbness, dizziness and tingling. The most severe reactions occur when large amounts of water are swallowed.

Fish caught in affected waters pose unknown health risks and may have an undesirable taste. If you choose to eat them, remove all fat, skin, and organs before cooking, because toxins are more likely to collect in these tissues.

For more information about blue green algae, visit:

- US Environmental Protection Agency:
<https://www.epa.gov/cyanohabs>
- Illinois Department of Health:
<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/habs>