

## News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### State Issues Cyanobacteria Lake Warning for Halfmoon Lake in Barnstead, NH

Concord, NH – An elevated cyanobacteria cell concentration has been observed at Halfmoon Lake in Barnstead, NH. The bloom was observed on August 16, 2018 and appeared as green streaks in the water. The cyanobacteria were identified as *Oscillatoria*, estimated at 1.45 million cells/ml. As a result, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has issued a cyanobacteria beach advisory for those who recreate at the beach. It is also advised to look out for accumulations in other areas of the lake or shorelines. Please continue to monitor your individual shoreline for changing conditions.

This warning is not based on a toxin evaluation and is intended as a precautionary measure for short term exposure. NHDES advises lake users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing elevated cyanobacteria cell conditions typically where lake water has a surface scum, green streaks or blue-green flecks aggregating along the shore. NHDES also advises pet owners to keep their pets out of any waters that have a cyanobacteria bloom.

NHDES routinely monitors public beaches and public waters of the state for cyanobacteria. Once a cyanobacteria lake warning or beach advisory has been issued, NHDES returns to affected waterbodies on a weekly basis until the cyanobacteria standards are again met. Cyanobacteria are natural components of water bodies worldwide, but blooms and surface scums may form when excess nutrients are available to the water. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells but 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 include liver and central nervous system damage.

The warning went into effect on August 17, 2018, and will remain in effect until additional samples reveal cyanobacteria levels have diminished.

Visit the NHDES Beach Program website for photos and more information about cyanobacteria at

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

Updates on advisories and warnings may be obtained at

[http://www4.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed\\_BeachMaps/WaterShed\\_BeachMaps.aspx](http://www4.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed_BeachMaps/WaterShed_BeachMaps.aspx)

Follow the Beaches twitter feed:

[https://twitter.com/NHDES\\_Beaches](https://twitter.com/NHDES_Beaches)

*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.*

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