

Health Notice

Use Caution When Recreating

In or around Deal Lake Due to Blue-Green Algae Bloom



Blue-green algae naturally occur in fresh and low-salinity water. However, heavily affected bloom waters may appear as if bright green paint is floating on the surface of the water. Tides and weather (e.g. wind, rain and the resulting runoff) can affect the location and intensity of the bloom.

People and animals (pets) may be exposed to the bloom in three ways: by ingestion (eating algae or drinking algae-contaminated water); by direct contact with algae (swimming, wading or handling); or by breathing in algae components. Any health risk from blue-green algae depends on how much algae you come in contact with and for how long, whether the algae is producing any toxins, and whether or not you are sensitive or allergic to the algae. People therefore should take commonsense precautions to reduce the risk of illness or discomfort if they, their family members or pets come in contact with algae blooms:

- Do not eat fish.
- Don't swim or wade in water containing visible blooms.
- Do not drink water from any area with the appearance of a blue-green algae bloom.
- Keep children and pets away from direct contact with bloom area waters.
- If contact is made with problem water, simply wash off with fresh water.

For more information, contact the Monmouth County Health Department at 732-431-7456 or visit:

MCHD Website

www.visitmonmouth.com/health

NJDEP Blue-Green Harmful Algae Bloom Factsheet

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/HABsFactSheet2015.pdf>

