

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State REMOVES Cyanobacteria Lake Warning for Country Pond in Kingston and Newton, New Hampshire

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has REMOVED a cyanobacteria lake warning issued on 9/28/2018. The bloom was concentrated near the Kingston side of the lake on September 26, but quickly dissipated the same day. An estimate of nearly 20 million cells of cyanobacteria per milliliter of lake water were enumerated from the area. The bloom was comprised of *Microcystis*, two varieties of *Anabaena/Dolichospermum*, *Woronichinia* and *Coelosphaerium*. The state threshold for a warning or advisory is 70,000 cells/ml of cyanobacteria in NH lake water. There have been no reports or sightings of the bloom since then. Follow-up sampling from the bloom location, the town beach and boat launch were completed on October 3. There were no observations of cyanobacteria. Please continue to monitor your individual shoreline for changing conditions.

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 that can be 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.

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.

The warning went into effect on September 28, 2018, and was removed on October 4, 2018.

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

Follow the Beaches twitter feed:

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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