

Coventry Lake Algae Bloom Update

Public Health Advisory

TERMINATED

August 8, 2022

Based on the recent monitoring information and data detailed in the below table, and after conferring with the CT DEEP, CT DPH, and the Town Limnologist, the Health District is *terminating the current Public Health Advisory for Coventry Lake, effective immediately.*

Residents should be aware that conditions still exist that may result in a higher risk in isolated parts of the lake. Residents who have private access points to the lake are encouraged to observe the water before contacting the water, and before allowing children or pets to contact the water. **Avoid contacting water that appears green throughout (sometimes referred to as looking like pea soup), or that has mats, films or scums accumulating on the surface.** You can find photographic examples of these conditions in the link to the DEEP document referenced on the second page of this update. Please also note that new signs will be going up around the lake in the coming days reminding residents to look for these conditions.

The algae monitoring program will continue through the summer water activity season. The community will be notified of any changes in the bloom risk at that time.

Latest Field Observations and Selected Monitoring Results

Date	Location	Visual Observations	Cyanobacteria Cell Count (cells/ml)	Water Clarity (Secchi disk depth, meters)	Bloom Risk Category* (1, 2, or 3)	Other items
8/1/2022	State Boat Launch	No mats, films, or scum.	38,843	1.3	Three (3)	
8/1/2022	Lisicke Beach	No mats, films, or scum	57,653	NA	Three (3)	
8/7/2022	State Boat Launch	No mats, films, scum.	NA	2.35	One (1)	Clarity improved

* Low risk = 1, Moderate risk = 2, High risk = 3; Based on CT DPH/DEEP Guidance to Local Health Departments for Blue-Green Algae Blooms, June 2021



Eastern Highlands Health District

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Other Update Comments

- Look for announcements from the Coventry Recreation Department regarding the reopening of Town Beaches.
- The Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee will be focusing their annual State of the Lake forum in September on this algae bloom. Watch for dates and location.
- Reminder to call the Health District at 860-425-3325 with any health questions, and the Town Parks and Rec Department at 860-742-4068 regarding any Coventry recreation questions.

Lake Community Algae Bloom Reporting Initiative Continues

The Health District and Town of Coventry continue to ask lake residents to report “*surface scum, mats, films*” or *other accumulations of interest* when they are observed on or in the lake water.

Please email report details and photos to ehhd@ehhd.org

For visual examples of the surface scum, mats, films, and other algae accumulations of interest, please see the photographic images within the CT DEEP document titled, “Frequently Asked Questions of Cyanobacteria Blooms in Freshwater Lakes and Ponds”. *Please review the images within this document before photographing your own observations.* You can find this document and those images by following this link:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/water/water_quality_management/cyanobacteria/Cyanobacteria-FAQ_June-3-2020.pdf

Update from Dr. Kortmann, Coventry Lake, Limnologist

The characteristics of the cyanobacteria bloom, and forcing factors that stimulated it, are being studied. Bloom monitoring is ongoing on a weekly or more frequent basis. Currently the bloom has subsided to the degree that cyanotoxin risk is very low. However, if surface accumulations are observed they should be avoided by people and pets. Additionally, it is likely that an increase in cyanobacteria will occur after fall turnover when the lake mixes surface-to-bottom again. Lake management alternatives that could help reduce the risk of similar future blooms, without causing other adverse impacts, are being evaluated, including: non-copper algaecides, sonic algae control devices, specific artificial circulation approaches, a variety of aeration and oxygenation methods, and additional watershed management actions. A diagnostic evaluation needs to be completed before considering a treatment approach that could change the Nature of Coventry Lake.