



RESIDENTS CAUTIONED OF ALGAE BLOOMS IN LAKES

December 1, 2020 –District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) reports that algae blooms have been located on Ryerson Lake (also known as Long Lake) east of Fremont in Newaygo County.

Over the past few years, DHD#10’s jurisdiction has seen a significant rise in the number of algae blooms on our lakes and rivers. This year was an especially bad year, with blooms extending into November that normally would have ended in early October. This is likely a result of hotter summers and falls due to climate change and could also be an effect of prolonged seasonal homes usage around our lakes due to the multiple stay at home orders.

DHD#10 wants to remind people to exercise caution while near waterways:

- Avoid direct contact with waterways that appear to be scummy or have a green shade.
- Do not drink untreated surface waters.
- Obey posted signage for public health advisories and/or beach closings.
- Limit or avoid eating fish from algal bloom impacted areas.

Contact with algae blooms can cause minor illness in humans but can be fatal to pets. Therefore, it is also recommended that people keep their pets out of water that shows any signs of algae blooms.

People and pets can experience the following symptoms after algal bloom exposure:

- Rash, hives, or skin blisters at skin contact site.
- Runny eyes and/or nose, sore throat, asthma-like symptoms, or allergic reactions.
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, weakness, tingly fingers, numbness, dizziness, difficulty breathing or even death resulting from ingesting contaminated water.

If you think you’ve been exposed to algal blooms take the following precautions:

- Remove yourself from the exposure and seek medical treatment if symptoms occur.
- Thoroughly rinse off pets with clean, fresh water if they swam in an area with algal blooms to avoid potential toxic ingestion from licking.
- Seek medical or veterinary treatment as soon as possible if you think you or your pet may have been poisoned from algal bloom.

For more information, call for DHD#10 Environmental Health Division at 888-217-3904.

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