DHD#10 Lifts Harmful Algae Bloom Advisory for Hess Lake, Newaygo County

September 30, 2026 – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10), in cooperation with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), is lifting the harmful algae bloom (HAB) advisory for Hess Lake, Newaygo County.

The reported HAB advisory for Hess Lake, Newaygo County, is being lifted. DHD#10 still advises residents, visitors, and their pets avoid areas where algal blooms are present.

Below are some steps to take when near waterways:

- Avoid direct contact with waterways that appear to be scummy or have a green shade to them
- Do not drink untreated surface water
- 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 illnesses in humans but can be fatal to pets. Therefore, it is also recommended that people keep their pets out of the water that shows any signs of algae blooms.

People and pets can experience the following symptoms after exposure to algae blooms:

- Rash, hives, or skin blisters at the 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 that you or your pet has been exposed to algae blooms, take the following precautions:

- Immediately remove yourself and/or your pet from the area
- Take a shower and thoroughly rinse off pets with clean, fresh water if they swam in an area with algae blooms to avoid potential toxic ingestion from licking between paws or affected areas
- Seek medical treatment for yourself and/or veterinary treatment for your pet as soon as possible if you think you or your pet may have been exposed to or ingested algal toxins

If you would like to learn more about algae blooms, EGLE has more information on what algae blooms are, where they are located, and frequently asked questions here: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/glwarm/harmful-algal-blooms.

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