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Algal Bloom Detected in Utah Lake *Public Warned to Stay Out of Provo Bay*

SALT LAKE CITY – The public, their pets and other animals are urged to stay out of the eastern shore of Utah Lake due to the discovery of a large algal bloom. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Water Quality (DWQ) collected samples Wednesday to determine the extent and, concentration and presence of toxins in the bloom.

Water Quality crews continue to collect additional samples around the lake where the algal bloom extends from Provo Bay along the eastern shore of Utah Lake to the Provo Harbor near Utah Lake State Park and westward roughly 2 miles. The samples are analyzed for the concentration of algal cells in the water, algal identification and the presence of toxins.

For now, the Utah County Health Department, Utah State Parks and Recreation and DWQ have posted a sign at the Provo Marina to caution people from recreating in the lake due to the presence of potentially harmful algal blooms. Pending test results, additional advisories may be issued.

Although algae are a natural part of many freshwater ecosystems, under the right conditions they can proliferate to create large algal blooms. High levels of nutrients in the water, combined with warm temperatures, abundant sunlight, and calm water, can promote rapid algal growth, resulting in the extensive, bright-green blooms. These blooms can contain harmful cyanobacteria, a type of bacteria (often referred to as blue-green algae) that produces toxins that can pose risks to humans, wildlife, domestic animals and fish. Symptoms of cyanotoxin poisoning include headache, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, and sometimes allergic-like reactions from skin contact.

DEQ will continue to provide updated information at:

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/locations/U/utahlake/algal-bloom.htm>

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.

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