

What should you do if you see a bloom?

Keep everyone, especially children and pets, away.

Dogs are particularly vulnerable as they will eat and drink most anything. Young children are susceptible as they quickly put things in their mouths. Because they are smaller, children may also be affected more quickly than an adult. Similar to other allergens and irritants, some people will be more susceptible than others.

Avoid contact with water in the area of the bloom.

Swimming, canoeing, kayaking and jet skiing can bring you in direct contact with the algae and should be avoided. Often blooms are localized and you can find another part of the lake that is suitable for recreation.

Notify local authorities that you may have seen a bloom.

- Your town health officer can contact the Vermont Department of Health for further information and assistance.
- You can contact the Health Department directly at **1-800-439-8550**.
- You can contact the Watershed Management Division at 802-490-6130.

No one should be drinking untreated lake water.

If you suspect a bloom near your intake or in your lake, you should not use the water until you can confirm that your treatment system effectively copes with cyanobacteria. Not all systems remove cyanotoxins. Boiling does not remove the toxins. Until you can confirm that your system is functioning effectively and no toxins are present, you should not shower or use the water for cooking or dishes. Contact the Vermont Department of Health for assistance.

See your doctor if you become ill after exposure to an algae bloom. Please report algae-related illnesses to the Health Department.

For more information, visit the Department of Health's website-
http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/bg_algae/bgalgae.aspx



Play it safe and enjoy your swim!