A harmful algal bloom (HAB) is an overgrowth of algae in a water body that causes water quality and aquatic life problems. Some HABs produced by bacteria can create toxins that may also harm people, animals, and the local environment.

**HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS**

### HOW TO IDENTIFY A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM

Algal blooms can make the water appear green, brown, gold, or red. They often produce scum, mats, foams, or paint-like streaks in the water or clumps on the shore. However, only professional water testing can confirm if HABs and toxins are present. State and local governments often test water for bacteria or toxins to protect water quality as part of their water quality standards program.

### WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!

**DON’T** Play with scum or mats on the shore.

**DON’T** Let animals drink water, eat algae, or swim.

**DON’T** Swim.

**DON’T** Boat or kayak.

**DON’T** Fish or wade.

**DON’T** Drink water.

**DON’T** Drink on lake.

### WHO CAN GET SICK FROM A HAB?

**Adults and children**

- **Skin Contact**
  - Ear, eye, nose, skin, and throat irritation, and rash.
  - Headache, and abdominal pain.

- **Inhalation**
  - Diarrhea, vomiting, and chest coughing.

- **Ingestion**
  - Diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

- **Paralysis, respiratory illness, and seizures**

**Household pets**

- **Drooling, diarrhea, low energy, not eating, stumbling, tremors, and vomiting**

**Livestock**

- **Drooling, diarrhea, low energy, not eating, stumbling, tremors, and vomiting**

**Fish and shellfish**

- **Paralysis, respiratory illness, and seizures**

### ROUTES & SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE TO HABs

**Symptoms can vary depending on how the person or animal was exposed, and whether the HAB is in salt or fresh water.**

<table>
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<th>Routes of Exposure</th>
<th>Symptoms of Exposure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Skin contact</td>
<td>Rash, itching, and inflammation, cough, and rash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingestion</td>
<td>Diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHAT TO DO IF EXPOSED TO A HAB

- **Shower immediately.**
- **See a doctor as soon as possible.**
- **Contact your poison control center for advice.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT POSSIBLE HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS:

(XXX) XXX-XXXX | xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.html