

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Public Health Release Example**

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### For Immediate Release

Oct. 7, 2021

### Public Health Advisories for Kansas Lakes Due to Blue-Green Algae

**TOPEKA** – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) have issued several public health advisories for Kansas lakes due to blue-green algae.

KDHE and KDWP urge Kansans to be aware of active advisories before participating in any water recreation including kayaking, waterfowl hunting and anglers. Blue-green algae blooms are unpredictable, and conditions can change quickly. Harmful algae blooms (HAB) typically begin in May and can occur through October or later. They generally coincide with longer days and warm water temperatures and often flourish in nutrient-laden waters. However, dead algae can wash up on shorelines and in marshy areas and persist for long periods. Children and dogs are most susceptible to toxin exposure.

A HAB may look like foam, scum or paint floating on the water and be colored blue, bright green, brown or red. Blooms can develop rapidly; if the water appears suspicious or there is decaying algae on the shore, avoid contact and keep dogs away. These toxins can be absorbed by ingestion, inhalation of aerosols and even skin contact. Symptoms vary depending upon the type of exposure (e.g. direct contact, ingestion, inhalation) but can include rash, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, sore throat, and headache. If you, or your dog, come into contact with algae rinse the area with clean, fresh water.

### Active Advisories

#### Warning

Ford County Lake, Ford County  
Gathering Pond at Milford, Geary County  
Jerry Ivey Pond, Saline County  
Lake Afton, Sedgwick County  
Lake Jeanette, Leavenworth County  
Melvern Outlet Pond, Osage County  
Melvern Outlet Swim Pond, Osage County  
Milford Lake [Zone C](#), Geary/Dickinson/Clay Counties  
Neosho Co SFL, Neosho County  
River Pond below Tuttle Reservoir, Riley County (new)  
Riverwalk Landing Pond, Geary County  
South Lake, Johnson County

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**Watch**

Big Eleven Lake, Wyandotte County  
 Cheney Lake, Reno County  
 Colwich City Lake, Sedgwick County (lowered Oct. 7)  
 Harvey County East Lake, Harvey County  
 Milford Lake Zone A, Geary County  
 Milford Lake [Zone B](#)  
 Peyton Creek Dam #104, Chase County (new)  
 Roses Lake, Johnson County  
 Webster Reservoir, Rooks County

**Lifted on Oct. 7**

Hodgeman Co SFL, Hodgeman County  
 Marion Reservoir, Marion County  
 Pony Creek Lake, Brown County

A **Warning status** indicates that conditions are unsafe for human and pet exposure. Contact with the waterbody should be avoided.

When a warning is issued, KDHE recommends the following precautions be taken:

- Lake water is not safe to drink for pets or livestock.
- Lake water, regardless of blue-green algae status, should never be consumed by humans.
- Water contact should be avoided.
- Fish may be eaten if they are rinsed with clean water and only the fillet portion is consumed, while all other parts are discarded.
- Do not allow pets to eat dried algae.
- If lake water contacts skin, wash with clean water as soon as possible.
- Avoid areas of visible algae accumulation.

A **Watch status** means that blue-green algae have been detected and a harmful algal bloom is present or likely to develop. People are encouraged to avoid areas of algae accumulation and keep pets and livestock away from the water.

During the watch status, KDHE recommends the following precautions be taken:

- Signage will be posted at all public access locations.
- Water may be unsafe for humans/animals.
- Avoid areas of algae accumulation and do not let people/pets eat dried algae or drink contaminated water.
- Swimming, wading, skiing and jet skiing are discouraged near visible blooms.
- Boating and fishing are safe. However, inhalation of the spray may affect some individuals. Avoid direct contact with water, and wash with clean water after any contact.
- Clean fish well with potable water and eat fillet portion only.

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KDHE investigates publicly-accessible bodies of water for blue-green algae when the agency receives reports of potential algae blooms in Kansas lakes. Based on credible field observation and sampling results, KDHE reports on potentially harmful conditions.

If you observe a scum or paint-like surface on the water, small floating blue-green clumps or filaments in the water, or if the water is an opaque green, avoid contact and keep pets away. These are indications that a harmful bloom may be present. Pet owners should be aware that animals that swim in or drink water affected by a harmful algal bloom or eat dried algae along the shore may become seriously ill or die.

For information on blue-green algae and reporting potential harmful algal blooms, please visit [www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/index.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/index.htm).

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