

## AVOID IT.



- Do not eat fish caught in areas with visible HABs. For more health advice on preparing and eating game fish visit the New York State Department of Health website: [www.health.ny.gov/publications/2800.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2800.pdf)
- Do not let pets drink or swim in waters with blooms. Pets that drink water with blue-green algae can become very ill or even die. Never allow pets to drink raw, untreated lake water.
- Do not swim in or swallow water that has algae scums/blooms; Do not drink lake water even if algae is not present.
- Untreated water should never be swallowed. Boiling will not remove the toxins.
- Do not boat, water ski, jet ski, etc. over affected water.
- Do not let children play with scum layers, even from the shore.
- Wash and dry any clothing and equipment that has come into contact with HABs.

## DRINKING WATER

Public Water Suppliers are required to treat, disinfect, and monitor water for consumers. Never drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with untreated water. HABs and their toxins are not removed with in-home treatment systems or by boiling the water.

## REPORT IT.



### To report an algae bloom:

#### During business hours - M-F 8-4:

Livingston County Department of Environmental Health: 585-243-7280, or 585-335-1717

#### Weekends, Evenings and Holidays:

Livingston County Sheriff's Office: 585-243-7100

### For more information:

[www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm)

[www.livingstoncounty.us/conesus.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/conesus.htm)

#### Conesus Lake Watershed Inspector

Livingston County Department of Environmental Health: 585-243-7280 or 585-335-1717

#### Conesus Lake Watershed Manager

Livingston County Planning Department: 585-243-7550



@LivingstonCoNY



Livingston County,  
New York

# Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Also known as blue-green algae



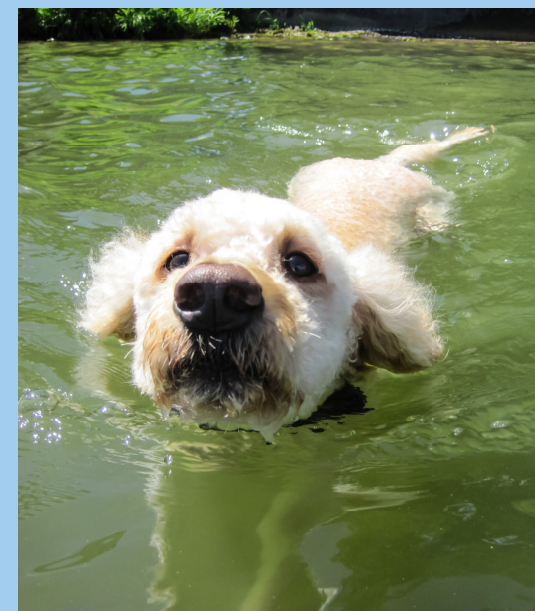
KNOW IT.



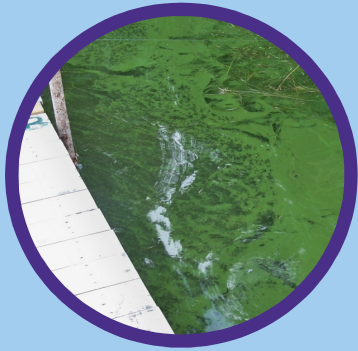
AVOID IT.



REPORT IT.



# KNOW IT.



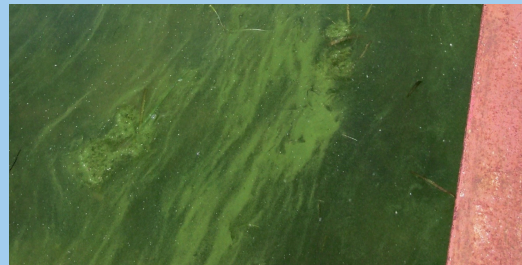
Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are bacteria that can make toxins that are dangerous to people, animals, and the environment. Also known as blue green algae, HABs are naturally present in small amounts in lakes and streams. A combination of key environmental factors and weather conditions can favor HAB growth and form blooms and surface scums where toxins may become concentrated enough to become a health threat.

## IDENTIFICATION

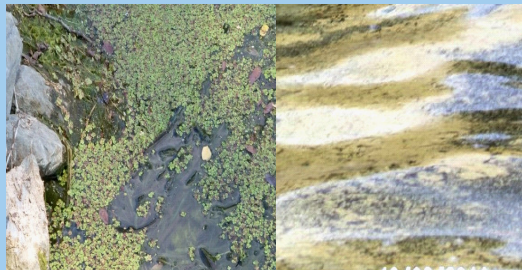
Harmful Algae cells can form into blooms and surface scum. Cyanobacteria are most often blue-green in color, but can also be green, blue, reddish-purple, or even brown. Blooms can take on the look of “pea soup,” green or blue paint, or form streaks or clumps that float on the surface. HABs are often confused with other algae, duck weed, and sometimes pollen that collect on the surface, but are not a health concern. HABs are often limited to a small area and found in shallow sheltered water such as coves. Water use and activities are often postponed when a bloom is visible.



Pea Soup Appearance



Streaks on the Water's Surface



Duck Weed

Pine Pollen

(Not a HAB)



Filamentous Algae (Not a HAB)

## EXPOSURE

Contact with HABs when swimming, inhaling water spray, boating, water skiing, or swallowing can cause illness.

HABs can also discolor the water and can cause foul odors that result from the breakdown of blue-green algae cells.

Water activities, such as swimming, in water that does not have a visible blue-green algae bloom should not cause health effects. However, some individuals could be sensitive to even low levels of algal toxins and might have mild symptoms such as skin, eye or throat irritation or allergic reactions.

## EXPOSURE SYMPTOMS

### Humans:

Rashes and blisters • Fever • Headache • Eye/nose/throat irritation • Muscle pain and weakness • Difficulty breathing • Vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain • Dry cough

### Pets:

Vomiting • Diarrhea • Lethargy • Loss of appetite • Death

### If You Think You Have Been Exposed

- Rinse off yourself, children, and animals with clean water. All sorts of organisms make their home in ponds and lakes, some of which may cause mild skin irritation. It is a good practice to always rinse off after swimming, even if the water is clear.
- **Contact your physician or call the Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222**
- For pets: Contact your veterinarian