



**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Public Health Director
Cayuga County Health Department
8 Dill St.
Auburn, NY 13021**



For Immediate Release: Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Harmful Algal Blooms on Cayuga Lake

The Cayuga County Health Department would like to inform the public that Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) have been widely reported on Cayuga Lake yesterday, Tuesday, July 9, 2019 and are anticipated to continue due to the warm weather expected. The public is encouraged to “Know It, Avoid It and Report It.”

KNOW IT

Bodies of water that are discolored with a paint-like or filmy appearance or floating scum should always be avoided as they are potentially harmful. Images of these types of blooms as well as non-harmful blooms can be viewed at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81962.html>.

AVOID IT

Always stay away from blooms in lakes or streams. Never swim, fish, boat, wade or eat fish caught in areas with blooms. Bloom or no bloom, never drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with a private water supply drawn directly from a lake that is untreated or improperly treated. During a bloom, private water supplies drawn directly from the lake should not be used for showering, bathing, or washing dishes even if treatment is provided. Public water supplies that draw water from lake water are treated, disinfected and monitored. The public would be notified by the Cayuga County Health Department if public water supplies are adversely impacted by HABs.

REPORT IT

If you think that a bloom may be harmful, report it through the: <https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae91142c812a4ab997ba739ed9723e6e> If you feel that you or your pets are experiencing symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, irritation of the skin, eyes, or respiratory system due to exposure to a harmful bloom please contact your health care provider or veterinarian.

Wells College water treatment facility draws water from Cayuga Lake and provides public drinking water to the Wells College community and the residents of the Village of Aurora. The water operator at the treatment plant has been routinely monitoring for the presence of algae in the water entering the plant and will continue to do so. The public drinking water will be sampled today and the results of those samples will be posted on the Health Department’s website. Please visit: www.cayugacounty.us/health and click the HAB button.

Many households draw water from the lake for home use. The Health Department discourages this at all times. Never drink water that is drawn from the lake, at any depth, whether or not harmful algal blooms are present. In-home treatment units such as boiling, disinfecting water with chlorine or ultraviolet radiation (UV), and water filtration units do not remove the toxins associated with



**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Public Health Director
Cayuga County Health Department
8 Dill St.
Auburn, NY 13021**



harmful algal blooms. Avoid drinking the water drawn directly from the lake or using the water for making infant formula, making ice, brushing teeth, preparing food, bathing and washing dishes when blooms are present.

More information regarding harmful algae blooms can be found at www.cayugacounty.us/health. Any questions or to report any symptoms you think may be related to exposure to harmful algal blooms contact the Cayuga County Health Department at (315) 253-1560.
