



State of Utah

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Algal Bloom Spreads in Utah Lake**  
*Public Warned To Avoid Area Due to Toxins*

Salt Lake City, Utah - The harmful cyanobacteria bloom affecting Utah Lake’s Provo Bay has spread to more areas of the lake. The public, their pets, and other animals are warned to stay out of Provo Bay, Lincoln Marina, Sandy Beach and the Utah Lake State Park. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has collected samples and found the presence of cyanobacterial toxins exceed the recommended recreational levels for microcystin.

“It is important for the public to be aware of the additional warnings on Utah Lake,” says Eric Edwards, Deputy Director of Utah County Health Department. “Utah Lake is a huge lake with some areas not currently affected. We would remind those recreating to be mindful of certain areas of the lake that have samples exceeding the recreational levels for toxins.”

“For those who would like updates on Utah Lake, such as when warnings or closures are issued or lifted, we encourage signing up at [www.alerts.utahcounty.gov](http://www.alerts.utahcounty.gov). It is an easy way to get text, e-mail, or phone notifications,” notes Utah County Health Department Public Information Officer, Aislynn Tolman-Hill.

Water Quality crews took additional water samples on June 20, 2018, at eight Utah Lake sites. Three sites sampled (Lincoln Marina, Sandy Beach, Utah Lake State Park) exceed recreational toxin thresholds. Sample results detected the presence of microcystin, with samples at the three sites exceeding the Utah Department of Health/ Utah Department of Environmental Quality health-based threshold for recreational waters.

Water Quality crews will continue to collect additional samples around the lake beginning today.

Utah County Health Department has posted warning signs at Lincoln Marina, Sandy Beach and Utah Lake State Park to warn people about recreating in the Bay due to the presence of potentially harmful algal blooms.

Although cyanobacteria are a natural part of many freshwater ecosystems, under the right conditions they can proliferate rapidly. High levels of nutrients in the water, combined with warm temperatures, abundant sunlight, and calm water, can promote growth, resulting in extensive blooms. These blooms consist of cyanobacteria (often referred to as

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blue-green algae or harmful algal blooms), a type of bacteria that poses risks to humans, wildlife, domestic animals and fish. Symptoms of exposure include headache, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, and sometimes allergic- like reactions from skin contact.

For concerns about possible human exposure, call the Utah Poison Control Center at 800-222- 1222, or your physician.

DEQ will continue to provide updated information at [www.habs.utah.gov](http://www.habs.utah.gov).

To sign up for updates: go to [www.alerts.utahcounty.gov](http://www.alerts.utahcounty.gov), create account. Select contact methods. Create profile, select location. Choose alert subscription “Utah Lake” under “Utah County Alerts.”

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**About DEQ**

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah’s air, land and water through balanced regulation. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah’s air, land and water. For more information, visit [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.