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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## Lincoln Beach/Marina at Utah Lake Closed Due to Harmful Algal Bloom

SALT LAKE CITY - Health officials closed the Lincoln Beach/Marina at Utah Lake today due to harmful algae that continue to pose a health risk to the public, pets, and other animals. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) most recent water sample results showed cyanobacteria cell count-concentrations exceeding the recreational danger threshold prompting the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and Utah County Health Department (UCHD) to issue the closure.

Lincoln Beach/Marina water sample results have cell concentrations 14 times greater than last week and levels of a type of cyanobacteria that has the potential to create toxins. The recreational danger threshold is 10 million cells per milliliter (cells/ml). Lincoln Beach/Marina water sample results are 36 million cells/ml. Toxin levels are also present at concentrations that could pose a health threat.

"Water with these levels of concentration in the algal bloom pose serious health risks," says Eric Edwards, Deputy Director of Utah County Health Department. "To protect the health of people and animals that use the lake, it is necessary for this portion of the lake to remain closed until it is safe for recreation."

Swedes Access (Provo Bay), Utah Lake State Park (only water in the day use area), and Sandy Beach sample results continue to exceed recreational warning levels for cell count concentrations and remain under a WARNING.

Those recreating on Utah Lake from other access points should take caution and avoid areas of scum. While most areas in Utah Lake are not currently affected, algae may move or disperse depending on temperature, wind, and weather. Recreationists are advised to be mindful of conditions, as they may change over the course of the day.

DEQ's Division of Water Quality sent samples to the Utah Public Health Lab for further toxin analysis. Results should be available soon. Updates will be posted on DEQ's [habs.utah.gov](http://habs.utah.gov).

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“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

Utah County Health Department has posted CLOSED/DANGER signs at Lincoln Beach/ Marina.

Although blue-green algae are a natural part of many freshwater ecosystems, under the right conditions they can grow 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 blue-green algae), 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.

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.