

# Lindon Marina Closed Due to Harmful Algal Bloom

(Provo, Utah) - Utah County Health Department officials closed the Lindon 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 closure. Utah County Health Department has posted CLOSED/DANGER signs at Lindon Marina.

Indicators used to identify when harmful algal blooms can be dangerous include cyanobacteria cell concentration and the levels of three different toxins, including microcystin, anatoxin-a, and cylindrospermopsin.

Lindon Marina water sample results have cyanobacteria cell concentrations of 24 million cells/ml, which is 14 million cells/ml over the recreational DANGER/CLOSURE threshold of 10 million cells per milliliter (cells/ml). Also present is microcystin, a toxin created by cyanobacteria. Lindon Marina microcystin water sample results are 2000 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), which is right on the DANGER/CLOSURE threshold of  $>2,000 \mu\text{g/L}$ .

The Lincoln Beach/Marina was closed for the second time during the 2018 season last week due cyanobacteria cell concentration and remains at a DANGER/CLOSURE, with cell counts of 18 million cells/ml.

“Water with these levels of concentration in the algal bloom can pose serious health risks,” says Ralph Clegg, Executive Director of Utah County Health Department. “To protect the health of people and animals that use the lake, it is necessary for these portions of the lake to remain closed until it is safe for recreation.”

The rest of Utah Lake remains at WARNING level due to cyanobacteria cell concentration. A WARNING level means direct contact with the water is not advised. Boaters should take caution and avoid areas of scum. 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 routinely samples Utah Lake. Updates are posted on DEQ's website at: [habs.utah.gov](http://habs.utah.gov).

“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

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.”

###