



**Public Health**  
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## Lake County General Health District

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**September 4, 2015**

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**LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

### **HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB) PRESENT IN LAKE ERIE RECREATIONAL WATERS IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO**

On Wednesday, September 2, 2015, blue-green algae was found on the Lake Erie shoreline extending potentially across the entire county. Laboratory testing from samples collected by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) on September 2 and 3, 2015 confirmed the presence of a harmful algal bloom (HAB). The HAB is a large growth of naturally-occurring bacteria that can produce toxins that may be harmful to people and pets.

The sample results received Friday, September 4, 2015 indicated that toxin levels at Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park Beach and Mentor Headlands State Park Beach **were below the established threshold at that time;** however since a HAB may be transported by wind or current, recreational water users are advised to maintain a level of awareness for the remainder of the swimming season.

Lake County Sample Results

Sample Location	Sample Date	Sample Result (parts per billion)	Toxin Detected	Recreational Public Health Advisory Standard	Recreational No Contact Advisory Standard
Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park Beach	9/2/2015	0.75 ppb	Microcystin	6 ppb	20 ppb & probable human or pet illness/death
Mentor Headlands State Park Beach	9/2/2015	1.9 ppb	Microcystin	6 ppb	20 ppb & probable human or pet illness/death

Visitors to the beaches and their pets should be aware of the risk of contact with water where a HAB was found. Boaters and jet skiers are cautioned also that water spray contact on skin or breathing/inhaling water droplets may cause health problems. Toxins may cause a skin rash, blisters, or hives. Vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, tingling, numbness, sore throat or headaches are some symptoms of illness. In severe cases, liver or kidney damage may occur.

If you or your pets are accidentally exposed to waters where HAB may have been found, you should completely rinse off after coming out of the water. Avoid accidental ingestion or drinking of any surface water at the beach. Contact a physician or veterinarian if you or your pets become ill after contact with or ingesting water and report the illness to the Health District on forms found at [www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org).

The toxin may still be present even if the bloom cannot be seen. The most up-to-date information can be found at the LCGHD website at [www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org). Additional information, including specific veterinary and medical fact sheets may be found at [www.ohioalgaeinfo.com](http://www.ohioalgaeinfo.com)