

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Surveillance Program

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to collect information about human and animal illness and death resulting from exposure to blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria). By studying this information, DPH staff will be able to better understand and quantify the public health problem posed by harmful algal blooms (HABs), raise awareness of these problems, and inform efforts to prevent exposures from occurring.

The HAB program is partnering with many lake associations, medical associations and state agencies across Wisconsin to raise awareness of the program and facilitate case collections. DPH staff are asking members of these partners to notify them of any known or suspected human or animal exposures to blue-green algae that may have resulted in illness or death. Animal exposures can include pets, livestock or wildlife such as birds and fish.

The HAB program will be collecting information about symptoms and any treatment received or provided. They will also collect exposure information, and through DNR staff they may seek to quickly collect environmental samples from that location. Please note, any individuals experiencing symptoms of blue-green algae exposure should seek medical attention.

For more information or to report a case,

Visit: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/bluegreenalgae

Call: (608)266-1120

The Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect information about human and animal illness and death resulting from exposure to blue-green algae. This information will provide a better understanding of the public health problem posed by algae blooms in our lakes and rivers and enhance efforts to prevent exposures from occurring.

The HAB program will be working with the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership to collect case information about human and animal illnesses or deaths. Program staff are asking the public to notify them of any known or suspected human or animal exposures to blue-green algae that may have resulted in illnesses such as breathing problems, vomiting, or skin rashes. Animal exposures can include pets, livestock or wildlife such as birds and fish. Researchers will collect information about symptoms and any treatment received. They will also collect exposure information such as date and location, and may collect water samples for analysis. A quick response will be important to obtain accurate environmental data, so timely reporting is desired. Any individuals experiencing symptoms of blue-green algae exposure should seek medical attention.

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