



DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release: October 3, 2005

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Toxic Blue-green Algae Sampling Results

DEQ is conducting weekly and monthly sampling for toxins at a number of public recreational lakes across Nebraska, and the results will be updated weekly, usually on Fridays. Depending on circumstances, there may be additional lakes added to the weekly sampling schedule.

Samples taken: September 26 and 27, 2005, unless noted otherwise

Analysis completed: September 29, 2005

The analysis of recent sampling shows that the following lakes are currently considered in Health Alert status:

**Carter Lake
Conestoga Reservoir
Pawnee Reservoir
Swan Creek Reservoir 5A**

An explanation of Health Alert: This designation means that the state believes that the level of toxins in the water make it unsafe for full-body recreational activities, such as swimming.

During a Health Alert at a public lake, signs will be posted advising the public to use caution. Affected swimming beaches will be closed. Boating and other recreational activities will be allowed, but the public will be advised to use caution and avoid prolonged exposure to the water, particularly avoiding any activity that could lead to drinking the water.

The level established in 2005 for a Health Alert is 20 parts per billion of the toxin Microcystin. Lakes under Health Alert will be sampled weekly, and the Health Alert will stay in effect until the level stays below 20 parts per billion for two consecutive weeks.

The chart below shows the lakes that were sampled, and the level of toxin found at the lake.

Lake Name	County	Level of microcystin (ppb)	Is it on Alert?
Bluestem Res. at swimming beach	Lancaster	0.93	No
Branched Oak Lake	Lancaster	Area 10 beach – 1.26 Lieber's Point beach – 3.04	No
Carter Lake at north boat ramp*	Douglas	20.88	Yes
Conestoga Res. at boat ramp	Lancaster	5.88	Yes - must remain below 20 ppb for two consecutive weeks
Enders Res. at boat ramp	Chase	0.05	No
Fremont Lake #9 at Fremont Beach	Dodge	0.75	No
Fremont Lake #10 at Brick's Bay Beach	Dodge	0.09	No
Fremont Lake #20	Dodge	East beach – 4.88 West beach – 4.67	No
Harlan Co. Res. at southeast beach	Harlan	0.11	No
Iron Horse Trail at swimming beach	Pawnee	1.06	No
Johnson Res. at swimming beach	Gosper	0.08	No
Kirkman's Cove	Richardson	4.46	No
Louisville Lake #2 at swimming beach	Cass	0.11	No
Maskentine Lake at steel pier	Stanton	3.12	No
Merritt Reservoir at swimming beach	Cherry	2.76	No
Pawnee Reservoir	Lancaster	East beach – 27.60 West beach – 29.61	Yes
Red Willow Res. at boat ramp	Red Willow	0.04	No
Summit Lake at swimming beach	Burt	0.72	No
Swan Creek Reservoir 5A	Saline	>30	Yes
Wagon Train Lake at swimming beach	Lancaster	0.03	No

* The north boat ramp is located on the Nebraska side of Carter Lake.

Lakes previously sampled:

Birdwood Lake	Lincoln	NE corner – 0.15 South side – 0.04	No – sampled 9/13
Alexandria Lakes	Jefferson	East lake – 3.16	No – sampled 8/23
Alexandria Lakes	Jefferson	West lake – 2.21	No – sampled 8/23
Calamus Reservoir	Loup	0.40	No – sampled 7/25
Crystal Cove Lake at boat ramp	Dakota	0.09	No – sampled 7/12
Davis Creek Res. at boat ramp	Valley	0.33	No – sampled mid-July
Fremont State Lakes – Victory Lake	Dodge	0.60	No – sampled 8/17
Fremont State Lakes #12	Dodge	0.11	No – sampled 8/2
Lake McConaughy - northeast boat ramp	Keith	0.09	No – sampled week of 7/18
Lake North	Platte	0.11	No – sampled 8/29
Lake Minatare	Scotts Bluff	0.02	No – sampled 9/14
Rockford Reservoir	Gage	0.15	No – sampled 7/28
Sherman Reservoir	Sherman	0.02	No – sampled 9/12
Swan Creek 5A	Saline	5.56	No – sampled 9/14
Valentine Mill Pond	Cherry	0.04	No – sampled 9/12

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