



FACT SHEET FROM RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Cyanobacteria related Public Health Advisories in Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management work cooperatively to detect the presence of cyanobacteria blooms and to advise the public of health concerns. The Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Resources screens lakes with reported blooms and lakes that have historically had high nutrient and/or chlorophyll *a* levels (factors that lead to cyanobacteria blooms) and responds to citizen complaints, as funding and manpower allow. The agencies jointly issue Health Advisories when any of the following three guidelines, which indicate that a bloom exists, are met:

- Evidence of a visible cyanobacteria scum or mat.
- Cyanobacteria cell count exceeding 70,000 cells/mL.
- Toxin (Microcystin-LR) level of lysed cells meeting or exceeding 14 ppb (ug/l).

Health Advisories instruct individuals to avoid all contact with the affected waterbody, including recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. People are also advised to not eat fish from the affected waterbody or to allow pets to wade or swim in, or drink untreated water from the affected waters. Health Advisories remain in effect for the remainder of the recreation season (first of November), unless follow-up sampling by a city, town, or third party indicate that the advisory can be lifted. Health Advisories may be lifted after two successive and representative sampling rounds, two weeks apart, demonstrate no evidence of a cyanobacterial scum or mat and demonstrate cyanobacteria cell counts and toxin levels below threshold concentrations. For more information about the Health Advisories, see: www.health.ri.gov/healthrisks/poisoning/cyanobacteria

For more information on freshwater lakes and ponds, including a cyanobacteria fact sheet, see: www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfwq/lakeindx.htm

Waters with Confirmed Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2013

Waterbody	Town	Date Advisory Posted	Date Advisory Lifted
Mashapaug Pond	Providence	7/30/2013	11/2/2013
Roger Williams Park Ponds	Providence	7/30/2013	11/2/2013
J.L. Curran Reservoir	Cranston	9/27/2013	11/2/2013
Melville Ponds	Portsmouth	9/27/2013	11/2/2013

Waters with Confirmed Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2012

Waterbody	Town	Date Advisory Posted	Date Advisory Lifted
Melville Ponds	Portsmouth	7/23/2012	11/1/2012
Mashapaug Pond	Providence	8/15/2012	11/1/2012
Sisson Pond	Portsmouth	8/15/2012	8/28/2012
Bailey Brook	Middletown	6/22/2012	11/1/2012
Easton Pond North	Middletown	6/22/2012	8/28/2012
Easton Pond South	Middletown	6/22/2012	8/28/2012
Gardiner Pond	Middletown	6/22/2012	11/1/2012
Paradise Pond	Middletown	6/22/2012	8/28/2012
St. Marys Pond	Portsmouth	6/22/2012	8/28/2012
Watson Pond	Little Compton	9/6/2012	11/1/2012
		6/22/2012	8/28/2012
		9/21/2012	11/1/2012
Almy Pond	Newport	8/28/2012	11/1/2012
Roger Williams Park Ponds	Providence	9/5/2012	11/1/2012
J.L. Curran Reservoir	Cranston	9/5/2012	11/1/2012
Barber Pond	South Kingstown	9/5/2012	11/1/2012
Pasquisset Pond	Charlestown	9/5/2012	11/1/2012
Scott Pond	Lincoln	9/14/2012	11/1/2012
Blackamore Pond	Cranston	9/14/2012	11/1/2012
Watson Pond	Little Compton	9/21/2012	11/1/2012
Slack Reservoir	Smithfield-Johnston	9/24/2012	11/1/2012

Waters with Confirmed Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2011

Waterbody	Town	Date Advisory Posted	Date Advisory Lifted
Roger Williams Park Ponds	Providence	9/23/2011	11/1/2011
Spectacle Pond	Cranston	9/23/2011	11/1/2011
Mashapaug Pond	Providence	9/23/2011	11/1/2011
Slater Memorial Park Pond	Pawtucket	9/23/2011	11/1/2011
J.L. Curran Reservoir (2)	Cranston	9/23/2011	11/1/2011
Slack Reservoir	Smithfield-Johnston	9/27/2011	11/1/2011

Waters with Confirmed Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2010

Waterbody	Town	Date Advisory Posted	Date Advisory Lifted
Turner Reservoir	East Providence	8/24/2010	10/12/2010
Omega Pond	East Providence	8/24/2010	10/12/2010
Central Pond	East Providence	8/24/2010	10/12/2010
Lower Ten Mile River	East Providence	8/24/2010	10/12/2010
Melville Pond	Portsmouth	8/27/2010	10/29/2010
Almy Pond	Newport	none issued	