

2024 Algae Outbreak

On Tuesday, July 9th an algae outbreak was investigated on Intermediate Lake. The pictures shown are of the outbreak. We reported the outbreak to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and Teresa Salveta from EGLE was able to come out and obtain samples of the algae for analysis (that's Teresa in the pictures).

Testing confirmed this algal bloom was POSITIVE for microcystins, which is Cyanobacteria, a toxin sometimes produced by blue-green algae. This is what's formally known as a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). The ILA is certainly not the Health Department, so you should refer to the links below for specific information, but here are some basics to get you started:

See A Bloom – Give It Room!



1. Do not let pets swim in the lake anywhere near an algae accumulation. If your pet has been in the water where algae was present, hose them off thoroughly with fresh water (they can ingest the algae when grooming after exposure), and watch them closely for signs of G.I. issues such as vomiting and diarrhea, or neurological issues, such as walking funny or acting differently. We also are not veterinarians, so we recommend calling your vet or local animal hospital for more info. Call them immediately if your pet is ill. Early treatment is crucial.

2. You can still swim in the lake but should do so out in waters where algae are not present. Exposure can cause skin irritation; ingestion can be harmful. Again, refer to the links provided for further info.

3. The algal bloom has to resolve on its own; there is nothing that can be done to treat it or make it go away. Shifting winds, changing temperatures, a storm, etc., can affect it and help the issue.

4. There are several things we can do to discourage algae growth. They include not letting fertilizers and nutrient-rich compounds run into lakes, not using soaps and shampoos near the lake (and especially not in it!) as they encourage growth, and not tossing pet waste anywhere near the lake for disposal.

Here are some links to information on HAB's:

EGLE Picture Guide: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/egle-wrd-swas-habs-picguide_694983_7.pdf

EGLE HABs website: [Harmful Algal Blooms \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/harmful-algal-blooms)

EGLE Frequently Asked Questions: [Harmful Algal Blooms \(HAB\) \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/harmful-algal-blooms)

EGLE classroom video on HABs ID: [EGLE Classroom - Identifying Harmful Algal Blooms \(Cyanobacteria\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

HABs mapper: [Michigan Harmful Algal Bloom Reports \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

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