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Public health advisory lifted for Blue Lake

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Blue Lake, located 20 miles east of Portland on N.E. Marine Drive, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Multnomah County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect Oct. 14.

Water monitoring has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae, which can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.

These reduced levels are not likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

DHS advises people who recreate in Oregon water bodies always to be alert to signs of algae blooms. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water. Boating is safe as long as speeds do not create excessive water spray, which could lead to inhalation risk.

For health information, contact the DHS Harmful Bloom Surveillance program at 971-673-0400 or www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hab; also, the DHS toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767, or Gerald Barnes at Multnomah County Health Department, 503-988-3400, ext. 26763. ###