

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

August 30, 2022

Confirmed Blue Green Algae – Rice Bay, Rainy Lake

A blue green algae bloom has been confirmed in Rice Bay on Rainy Lake. A sample of the bloom was taken and results show that toxins were present that exceed the Ontario Drinking Water Standard and Recreational Water Standard. Since the testing was earlier this month, concentrations may now be higher or lower, depending on how the bloom has evolved; and the bloom can move and may not be localized to a single location on the lake.

Additional blooms reported in Rainy Lake in 2022 will not be announced, but will be listed on our [Reported Blue Green Algae Blooms](#) webpage.

How to be safe when blue green algae blooms are present

When blue green algae blooms are present in the area, it is important to avoid drinking the water, swimming in it, and using it for bathing or other household purposes. Residential water treatment systems may not remove toxins and should not be relied on during a bloom event. Do not boil the water, as this can cause an increase in toxin levels. Municipally treated water supplies can be used normally unless you are notified otherwise.

People and pets should avoid contact with water that has been recently impacted by a blue green algae bloom, is discoloured, or has scum on the surface. If contact does occur, wash with soap and water or rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove algae. It is recommended to wait at least two weeks after the bloom has disappeared before resuming the normal use of lake waters.

More information

If you spot a bloom, report it to the Spills Action Centre at 1-866-MOETIPS (6638477). For more information on blue-green algae blooms, follow the links below:

- [Information about Blue-Green Algae – Ministry of Environment](#)
- <https://www2.nwhu.on.ca/our-services/safe-drinking-water/reported-blue-green-algae-blooms/>

If you have questions, please contact Northwestern Health Unit at 1-800-830-5978 to speak with a public health inspector.

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