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 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 allows. 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 or lake/pond-wide cyanobacteria bloom.
- Cyanobacteria cell count exceeding 70,000 cells/mL.
- Toxin (Microcystin-LR) level of lysed cells meeting or exceeding 4 ppb (ug/l).

Health advisories instruct individuals to avoid all contact with the affected waterbody, including recreational activities such as swimming, boating, or 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, visit the RI Department of Health's webpage: http://www.health.ri.gov/healthrisks/harmfulalgaeblooms/. For more information on freshwater lakes and ponds, including a cyanobacteria fact sheet, visit the RI Department of Environmental Management's webpage: http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/water/quality/surface-water/lakes-ponds.php. To report an algae or cyanobacteria bloom you can call Jane Sawyers at 401-222-4700 xt. 7239 or Brian Zalewsky at 401-222-4700 xt. 7145. You can also email DEM.OWRCyano@dem.ri.gov and if possible, attach a photograph of the reported algae bloom. The tables below provide information regarding past health advisories.

Waterbody	Town	Date Advisory Posted	Date Advisory Lifted
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Caynobacteria Blooms in 2018			
Sisson Pond	Portsmouth	6/8/2018	12/7/2018
Melville Ponds	Portsmouth	6/27/2018	12/7/2018
Almy Pond	Newport	6/27/2018	12/7/2018
Turner Reservoir	East Providence	7/13/2018	11/7/2018
Central Pond	East Providence	7/16/2018	11/7/2018
Omega Pond	East Providence	7/16/2018	11/7/2018
Ten Mile River	East Providence	7/16/2018	11/7/2018
Roosevelt Lake	Providence	7/25/2018	12/7/2018
Mashapaug Pond	Providence	7/25/2018	12/7/2018
Slack Reservoir	Smithfield-Johnston	7/31/2018	11/7/2018
Willow Lake	Providence	8/10/2018	11/7/2018
Edgewood Lake	Providence	8/10/2018	11/7/2018
Japanese Gardens	Providence	8/10/2018	12/7/2018
Blackamore Pond	Cranston	8/10/2018	11/7/2018
Georgiaville Pond	Smithfield	8/17/2018	9/21/2018
Pleasure Lake	Providence	8/21/2018	11/7/2018
Tarkiln Pond	North Smithfield/Burrillville	8/31/2018	11/7/2018
Spectacle Pond	Cranston	9/10/2018	12/7/2018
Little Pond	Warwick	9/21/2018	11/7/2018
Watson Reservoir	Little Compton	10/12/2018	12/7/2018
Gardiner Pond	Middletown	10/12/2018	12/7/2018
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Caynobacteria Blooms in 2017			
Stafford Pond	Tiverton	9/27/2017	11/2/2017
Pleasure Lake	Providence	9/27/2017	11/2/2017
Lawton Valley Reservoir	Portsmouth	8/29/2017	11/2/2017
J. L Curran Reservoir	Cranston	9/27/2017	12/1/2017
Pleasure Lake	Providence	8/18/2017	9/12/2017
Mashapaug Pond	Providence	9/12/2017	11/2/2017
Warwick Pond	Warwick	8/18/2017	11/2/2017
Roger Williams Park Ponds	Providence	8/18/2017	12/29/2017
Sisson Pond	Portsmouth	8/4/2017	11/2/2017
Turner Reservoir	East Providence	8/2/2017	11/2/2017
Blackamore Pond	Cranston	7/31/2017	12/29/2017
Spectacle Pond	Cranston	7/24/2017	12/29/2017
Almy Pond	Newport	7/21/2017	12/29/2017
Slack Reservoir	Smithfield-Johnston	8/31/2017	12/1/2017

Slack Reservoir	Smithfield-Johnston	7/14/2017	8/18/2017
St. Mary's Pond	Portsmouth	7/7/2017	11/2/2017
Roosevelt Lake (RWP)	Providence	7/7/2017	12/29/2017
Elm Lake (RWP)	Providence	7/7/2017	12/29/2017
Japanese Gardens (RWP)	Providence	7/7/2017	12/29/2017
Melville Ponds	Portsmouth	7/5/2017	12/1/2017
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2016			
Scott Pond	Lincoln	4/16/2016	6/21/2016
Melville Ponds	Portsmouth	7/19/2016	12/15/2016
Sisson Pond	Portsmouth	7/20/2016	12/15/2016
Paradise Pond	Middletown	7/19/2016	12/15/2016
Watson Reservoir	Little Compton	8/19/2016	12/15/2016
North Easton Pond	Middletown	8/19/2016	11/16/2016
Lawton Valley Reservoir	Portsmouth	8/19/2016	12/15/2016
Warwick Pond	Warwick	8/25/2016	11/16/2016
St. Mary's	Portsmouth	9/12/2016	12/15/2016
South Easton Pond	Middletown	9/12/2016	11/16/2016
Mashapaug Pond	Providence	9/16/2016	12/15/2016
RWP-Cunliff Lake	Providence	9/30/2016	11/16/2016
RWP-Elm Lake	Providence	9/30/2016	11/16/2016
RWP-Japanese Gardens	Providence	9/30/2016	12/15/2016
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2015			
Melville Ponds	Portsmouth	6/30/2015	10/29/2015
Blackamore Pond	Cranston	7/23/2015	10/29/2015
Paradise Pond	Middletown	7/23/2015	12/2/2015
Lawton Valley Reservoir	Portsmouth	8/7/2015	12/2/2015
Sisson Pond	Portsmouth	8/7/2015	12/2/2015
Warwick Pond	Warwick	8/18/2015	10/29/2015
South Easton Pond	Middletown	9/3/2015	12/2/2015
St. Mary's Pond	Portsmouth	9/3/2015	12/2/2015
Watson Reservoir	Little Compton	9/3/2015	12/2/2015
North Easton Pond	Middletown	10/29/2015	12/2/2015
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2014			
Blackamore Pond	Cranston	10/9/2014	11/1/2014
J.L. Curran Reservoir	Cranston	8/27/2014	11/1/2014
Mashapaug Pond	Providence	9/11/2014	not lifted
Spectacle Pond	Cranston	9/24/2014	11/1/2014
Omega Pond	East Providence	9/24/2014	11/1/2014

Turner Reservoir	East Providence	9/9/2014	11/1/2014
Ten Mile River	East Providence	9/24/2014	11/1/2014
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2013			
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
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2012			
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	6/22/2012	8/28/2012
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 Reservoir	Little Compton	9/21/2012	11/1/2012
Slack Reservoir	Smithfield-Johnston	9/24/2012	11/1/2012
Ponds with Confirmed Toxigenic/Potentially Toxigenic Cyanobacteria Blooms in 2011			
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