



## What are the health effects on pets?

If you see a bloom, do not allow your pets to come into contact with it - especially dogs. Dogs are more likely than humans to drink the water and can swallow a lot of water for their size. When they groom themselves, dogs can potentially swallow blue-greens collected in their fur.

Symptoms of illness from blue-greens often appear quicker in animals than in humans - sometimes in minutes to a few hours. Symptoms in animals can include vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, staggered walking, excessive salivation, convulsions, erratic behavior, or physical distress.

Dogs should be thoroughly rinsed off or bathed with fresh water after contact with water that may contain algae, even if it's not toxic algae.

Contact your veterinarian immediately if pets or livestock show signs of illness or if you know or suspect your pet or livestock had contact with a blue-green algae blooms.

## Can I swim or go boating if blue-greens are in the water?

If a HAB is suspected, do not swim, wade, or touch the water where algae are present. Humans and pets should be rinsed thoroughly in fresh water if there has been any contact with the water.

Humans and pets should avoid the water entirely if there is a large algal bloom spread out across the lake, river, or pond, including water sports like boating.

Algae can cover the surface of the water so densely that you cannot see underneath to tell how deep the water might be or see rocks in the water. Trying to wade or swim through the algae can be dangerous.

## Can I eat fish if HABs are in the water?

Toxins may build up in the meat of fish, such as the fillet, and especially in the guts or organs (liver, kidney, etc.). The amount of toxin found in fish depends on a number of factors, including how badly and for how long the blue-green has been blooming in the area where the fish are caught.

Following the Eat Safe Fish waterbody-specific guidelines, or Statewide Safe Fish Guidelines, and eating only the fillets (and not the guts) reduces the danger of eating fish from areas affected by HABs and from other chemicals that are regularly found in them. The guts should be thrown away and fillets should be rinsed with fresh water before cooking.

## What to do if you suspect a blue-green bloom?

If you suspect a blue-green bloom, avoid contact with the water including pets. You should then contact your PLM manager and the State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or send an e-mail to [AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov](mailto:AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov).

Once you call or email a report of a suspected blue-green bloom, information will be collected about the extent of the bloom, the duration of the bloom and you may possibly be requested to send photos to document the current conditions. Other information about any noticeable effects, such as dead fish or other wildlife, human effects such as rashes or illness and reports of odors and other observable conditions.

A representative from PLM, a State Agency or community Health Department may collect samples to confirm a positive identification and samples for toxins in the water column.



### MICHIGAN LOCATIONS

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8865 100th St. SE  
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**Morrice Location**  
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