

Oregon Health Authority Issues Recreational Use Advisory for Cullaby Lake

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Astoria, OR – A recreational use health advisory has been issued for Cullaby Lake due to the presence of a cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom. The health advisory is in effect [while water samples are tested](#).

[Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\)](#) is advising that individuals should avoid swimming and high-speed water activities, such as water skiing or power boating, in areas of the reservoir where blooms are present.

“The county parks department has posted ‘Health Advisory in Effect’ signs for the waters of Cullaby Lake at the entrance to both Cullaby Lake Park and Carnahan Park,” said Steve Meshke, Clatsop County Parks natural resources manager.

Advisory signs are also posted at the kiosk, fee booth, swim areas and on reader boards.

Exposure to cyanotoxins occurs when water is swallowed while swimming, or when water droplets are inhaled during high-speed activities such as water-skiing or wakeboarding. Symptoms of exposure to cyanotoxins include diarrhea, cramps, vomiting, numbness, dizziness and fainting.

Toxins are not absorbed through the skin. However, those with skin sensitivities may get a puffy red rash.

[Cyanobacteria](#) are common bacteria found worldwide in all freshwater. Many blooms are harmless, but some can produce cyanotoxins that make people and animals sick. Children and pets are particularly sensitive to illness because of their size and activity levels. Dogs can get extremely ill and even die within minutes to hours of exposure to cyanotoxins by drinking the water, licking their wet fur or eating the toxins from floating mats or dried crust along the shore.

OHA encourages people to visit Cullaby Lake and enjoy activities such as catch-and-release fishing, hiking, biking, picnicking, bird watching, canoeing, and kayaking. Boating is safe as long as speeds do not create excessive water spray. Sprays could lead to the risk of inhaling cyanotoxins.

For health information or to report an illness, contact OHA at [971-673-0482](tel:971-673-0482).