Blue-green Algae

Avoid blue-green algae blooms in surface waters - they can cause health effects in people and animals

Know it.

It might be a blue-green algae bloom if you see:
• Strongly colored water.
• Paint-like appearance.
• Floating mats or scums.

Avoid it.

Always stay away from blooms in surface waters:
• Don’t swim, fish, boat or wade in areas with blooms.
• Don’t eat fish caught from areas with blooms.

If you’re not on a public water supply:
• Bloom or no bloom, never drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with untreated surface water.
• During a bloom, don’t drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with surface water, even if you treat it. Also consider not using the water for showering, bathing, or washing.

If you are on a public water supply:
• Your water is treated, disinfected and monitored for drinking and household use.

Report it.

• Report blooms to: HABsinfo@dec.ny.gov or harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov
• Report bloom-related symptoms to: harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov
• Consider visiting a health care provider or contacting the Tompkins County Health Department at (607) 274-6604 if you or your family are experiencing symptoms that might be related to blue-green algae exposure. Contact your veterinarian if you have concerns about your pet’s blue-green algae exposure.

Learn more at:
www.health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae,
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html and
www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health