

## For Immediate Release

October 31, 2019

For more information, contact:

Kristi Pankratz

[Kristi.Pankratz@ks.gov](mailto:Kristi.Pankratz@ks.gov)

785-296-1317

Ron Kaufman

[Ron.Kaufman@ks.gov](mailto:Ron.Kaufman@ks.gov)

785-296-2870

## Public Health Advisories for Kansas Lakes Due to Blue-Green Algae

*Four lakes with warnings, one watch issued at conclusion of the recreational season*

**TOPEKA** – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP), has issued public health advisories for Kansas lakes as the recreational season comes to a close October 31.

Monitoring for algal blooms is concurrent with the water recreation season which lasts April 1 – October 31. While KDHE and KDWP will not be issuing public health advisories for algal blooms again until April 2020, the public is encouraged to aware of algal blooms and report any health impacts to humans or animals from algal blooms to 877-427-7317 or [KDHE.EpiHotline@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.EpiHotline@ks.gov). For those advisories that are still active following today, KDHE relies on lake managers to continue monitoring those lakes. The KDHE Agency Response Plan for Harmful Algal Blooms can be viewed online at [http://www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/Response Plan/2019 HAB Response Plan.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/Response%20Plan/2019%20HAB%20Response%20Plan.pdf).

### Warnings:

Jerry Ivey Pond, Saline County (unchanged)

Lake Jeanette, Leavenworth County (unchanged)

Lakewood Park Lake, Saline County (unchanged)

Gathering Pond near Milford (Hatchery Supply Pond), Geary County (upgraded from watch 10/31)

When a warning is issued, KDHE recommends the following precautions be taken:

- Lake water is not safe to drink for pets or livestock.
- Lake water, regardless of blue-green algae status, should never be consumed by humans.
- Water contact should be avoided.
- Fish may be eaten if they are rinsed with clean water and only the fillet portion is consumed, while all other parts are discarded.
- Do not allow pets to eat dried algae.
- If lake water contacts skin, wash with clean water as soon as possible.
- Avoid areas of visible algae accumulation.

**Watch:**

South Lake, Johnson County (unchanged)

A watch means that blue-green algae have been detected and a harmful algal bloom is present or likely to develop. People are encouraged to avoid areas of algae accumulation and keep pets and livestock away from the water.

During the watch status, KDHE recommends the following precautions be taken:

- Signage will be posted at all public access locations
- Water may be unsafe for humans/animals
- Avoid areas of algae accumulation and do not let people/pets eat dried algae or drink contaminated water.
- Swimming, wading, skiing, and jet skiing are discouraged near visible blooms
- Boating and fishing are safe. However, inhalation of the spray may affect some individuals. Avoid direct contact with water, and wash with clean water after any contact.
- Clean fish well with potable water and eat fillet portion only.

KDHE samples publicly-accessible bodies of water for blue-green algae when the agency receives reports of potential algae blooms in Kansas lakes. Based on sampling results, KDHE reports on potentially harmful conditions.

Kansans should be aware that blooms are unpredictable. They can develop rapidly and may float around the lake, requiring visitors to exercise their best judgment. If there is scum, a paint-like surface or the water is bright green, avoid contact and keep pets away. These are indications that a harmful bloom may be present. Pet owners should be aware that animals that swim in or drink water affected by a harmful algal bloom or eat dried algae along the shore may become seriously ill or die.

For information on blue-green algae and reporting potential harmful algal blooms, please visit [www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/index.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/index.htm).

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