



News Advisory

Visitors urged not to swim in Lake Hemet after test confirms presence of harmful algal bloom *Warning urges visitors to keep people and pets out of the water*

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY – Visitors to Lake Hemet are advised not to swim and to keep pets out of the water after testing confirmed a harmful algal bloom that can make people and animals sick and pose a particular risk to children and dogs.

The lake is under a Warning advisory until further notice. Visitors should stay away from algae, scum and cloudy or discolored water and follow posted advisory signs. The State Water Resources Control Board and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board are coordinating with local partners to monitor conditions and keep visitors informed.

Warning Advisory

- Do not swim.
- Do not let pets or other animals enter or drink the water or eat algae or scum along the shore.
- Stay away from algae, scum and cloudy or discolored water.
- Do not eat shellfish from the lake.
- Do not drink the water or use it for cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make it safe.
- If you catch fish, throw away the guts and clean fillets with tap or bottled water before cooking.

Harmful algal blooms can produce toxins that make people and animals sick. Children and dogs are especially vulnerable because they are more likely to swallow water while swimming or playing.

Blooms can appear as green, blue-green or brown discoloration in the water, floating mats or scum, or streaks on the water's surface. Conditions can change quickly as wind and waves move or concentrate a bloom in different areas.

Visitors are encouraged to practice [healthy water habits](#) whenever enjoying California lakes, rivers and streams, including avoiding algae and scum, keeping children and pets away from affected water and washing with clean water after water contact.



Seek medical or veterinary care immediately if you think a person or animal became sick after contact with a harmful algal bloom. Tell the medical or veterinary professional about the possible exposure.

To report a bloom, do one of the following:

- Fill out the Bloom Report form on the HABs Portal:
<https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/do/bloomreport.html>
- Email: CyanoHAB.reports@waterboards.ca.gov
- Call the HABs hotline: 1-844-729-6466 (toll free)
- Contact your County Public Health Office

For more information about HABs, please visit:

[California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal](#)





WARNING

Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and kill animals



No swimming.



Stay away from scum, and cloudy or discolored water.



Do not use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.



Do not let pets or other animals go into or drink the water, or go near the scum.



Do not eat shellfish from this water.



For fish caught here, **throw away guts and clean fillets** with tap water or bottled water before cooking.

For people, the toxins can cause:

- Skin rashes, eye irritation
- Diarrhea, vomiting

For animals, the toxins can cause:

- Diarrhea, vomiting
- Convulsions and death

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water.

For more information on harmful algae, go to <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html>

For local information, contact:

Enter your contact information in this text box