

NEWS

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Contact: Christine Myron, Public Information Officer
Office: 208-327-8639 | Cell 208-871-1712
cmyron@cdh.idaho.gov | www.cdh.idaho.gov/news

Health Advisories Lifted for Multiple Reservoirs in Ada and Elmore Counties

Central District Health (CDH) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have lifted health advisories issued in late summer for Little Camas and Mountain Home Reservoirs, located in Elmore County, and Indian Creek and Blacks Creek Reservoirs in Ada County.

The health advisories for Mountain Home, Indian Creek, and Blacks Creek Reservoirs were issued on July 31; the health advisory for Little Camas Reservoir was issued on August 16. After regular monitoring, and water sample collection and testing, DEQ confirmed levels have returned to normal and toxin levels are below the safety threshold.

CDH and DEQ advise water users to be cautious in and around areas where a bloom may still be visible — always use caution around water bodies with visible slime, surface scum, or a foul odor. High concentrations of toxin-producing cyanobacteria may cause illness to both humans and animals.

HABs can happen at any time but are most common in the late summer or early fall months. A health advisory is issued for a water body when the number of cells in the water is above a level recommended as unsafe for recreating. In Idaho, 16 HAB-related health advisories were issued between late July and early September this year; some remain in place despite cold temperatures.

You can help by reporting suspicious-looking water to DEQ by phone, email, or with the *bloomWatch* app. Information on how to report suspicious-looking surface water, and a list and map of current health advisories in Idaho is available at <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/recreation-health-advisories/cyanobacteria-harmful-algal-blooms/>.

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