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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADVISORY UPDATE: CONFIRMED Blue-Green Algae Bloom in Swan Lake Still Present, Actions to Take

(Allegan) – The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) notified the Allegan Department Health Department (ACHD) that sampling from August 13 shows the algal toxin microcystin still present in Swan Lake. EGLE also reported today the blue-green algae bloom covers majority of the lake. The Advisory continues for visitors and residents of the lake to avoid water-related activities and keep pets from drinking the lake water. The Advisory will be lifted once further testing shows no algal toxin microcystin present in the water.

ACHD first received notification from EGLE on suspected blue-green algae in Swan Lake on August 4, and a confirmation of the algal toxin microcystin present on August 6. Advisory signs have been posted by the campground and boat launch urging people and pets to stay out of the water.

Summer is peak season for the formation of harmful algal blooms (HABs) that can present health hazards to people and pets. In Michigan, algal blooms typically occur during periods of warm temperatures, lots of sun, and high nutrient levels.

It is not possible to determine whether algal blooms contain harmful toxins by looking at them, so it is best to avoid contact with any body of water that is covered with algal mats or significant rafts of algae on the surface.

Actions to take:

- Avoid areas with scummy water in the lake or with water that looks like spilled paint or has a green sheen to it. These scums may contain flecks, foam or clumps.
- Avoid water-related activities in areas where the bloom is visible. Individuals that have skin contact, swallow large amounts, or play in the water are susceptible to illness. Read more [here](#).
- Keep pets from drinking or playing in the lake water. Symptoms of illness from cyanotoxins often appear quicker in animals than in humans – sometimes in minutes to a few hours. Symptoms in animals can include vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, staggered walking, excessive salivation, convulsions, erratic behavior, or physical distress. Dogs should be thoroughly rinsed off or bathed with fresh water after contact with water that may contain algae, even if it's not toxic algae.

ACHD will provide additional updates once more information is received. For more information on HABs, visit www.michigan.gov/habs.

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