

OFFICE OF THE

## BOARD OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:

### NO SWIMMING Advisory

September 4, 2021

On August 20, 2021 the Board of Health issued a **No Swimming** advisory based on results of testing a water quality sample taken at the Town Beach that indicated the presence of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). Results of an **August 31** sample (third sample) indicate the continued increase in cyanobacteria at concentrations requiring that:

- **No Swimming** Advisory remains in place
- **No Swimming at Town Beach or Thurston's Cove**

This **No Swimming** Advisory is due to:

- Presence of cyanobacteria > 70,000 cells/millileter (c/mL)
- Water visibility less than 4 feet (~22 inches on Aug 31).

#### What does a **No Swimming** Advisory mean?

A **No Swimming** advisory means no "in water" activities for people or pets. "On the water" activities are *not* advised, but can occur with the following precautions:

- Avoid Harmful cyanobacteria algae blooms while fishing and during boating activities.
- If contact occurs, rinse skin with clean water. If skin rash or illness occurs, contact a medical provider.
- If removing a boat from the water, wash the boat thoroughly with clean water before transport.

#### What happens next:

The Board of Health will continue to test the water quality on a weekly basis. If and when the cyanobacteria cell counts fall below 70,000 c/mL for two consecutive weeks *and* water visibility returns to greater than 4 feet, the Board will evaluate lifting this Advisory.

For more information, please see:

- [www.mass.gov/info-details/harmful-algae-blooms-in-freshwater-bodies](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/harmful-algae-blooms-in-freshwater-bodies)
- <https://www.harvard-ma.gov/board-health>

To stay informed of this evolving situation, residents should sign up for alerts from the Board of Health and the Town Administrator at: [www.harvard-ma.us/subscribe](http://www.harvard-ma.us/subscribe)