

OFFICE OF THE

## BOARD OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:

### **NO SWIMMING Advisory remains in place**

September 10, 2021

Results of a **September 7, 2021** water quality sample (the fifth sample this season) indicate the continued presence of cyanobacteria (blue green algae) 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/milliliter (c/mL)
- Water visibility less than 4 feet (~23 inches on Sept 7).

#### 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 test the water quality for the last time on September 14, in accordance with our Bare Hill Pond Town Beach Algal Bloom Protocol. Because it is no longer possible to get two consecutive water tests with cyanobacteria cell counts below 70,000 c/mL this season, it is unlikely that the Board of Health will lift the No Swimming advisory. When water visibility increases to 4 feet, the Department of Public Health will test the water for algal toxins.

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/pages/algal-blooms>

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)