

OFFICE OF THE

BOARD OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:

NO SWIMMING Advisory remains in place

September 20, 2021

Results of a **September 14, 2021** water quality sample (the sixth 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 Beach**

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

- Presence of cyanobacteria > 70,000 cells/milliliter (c/mL)

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 September 14 sample was the last test for cyanobacteria that the Board of Health will do this season; this is in accordance with our Bare Hill Pond Town Beach Algal Bloom Protocol. Because there were not two consecutive water tests with cyanobacteria cell counts below 70,000 c/mL, the Board of Health will not lift the No Swimming advisory this season.

As of September 20, the water visibility had increased to 4 feet and the Department of Public Health (DPH) has agreed to test the water for algal toxins. Residents are reminded that clear water does not mean safe water. Some cyanobacteria release toxins as they decompose. This is why DPH will test.

For more information, please see:

- 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