

# WATER CONTACT ADVISORY

## Blue-Green Algae

Concentrations of Blue-Green Algae known as “blooms” have been reported at several locations along county waterways. These blooms are natural occurrences but may become harmful if they occur in high concentrations or if they produce toxins (of the more than 700 species of bay algae, less than 2% produce toxins).

The public is advised to take the following precautions when swimming, boating or recreating in areas where Blue-Green Algae is evident:

- Do not swim in areas where a bloom of Blue-Green Algae is evident.
- Do not drink water from an area with the appearance of a blue-green algal bloom.
- Keep pets and livestock away from bloom areas.
- If contact is made with problem water, simply wash off with fresh water.
- If any skin irritation persists, see a physician or healthcare provider.
- Ingesting small amounts of water from bloom areas should not harm pets. Questions regarding any suspected symptoms resulting from exposure should be directed to your veterinarian.

A fact sheet on algae blooms is on the Department of Natural Resources website at: [www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/hab/microcystis2.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/hab/microcystis2.html). To report human illness from bloom water contact, fish kill or a fish health-related event, call the Bay Health Hotline at 1-877-224-7229 24 hours a day.



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