

Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative

WCMC Results August 05, 2024

Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Coes Reservoir	11	123	Some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia
Cooks Pond	16	266	low	Dolichospermum
East Lake Waushacum	11	116	low	Snowella
Ecotarium Pond	10	58	none	
Farm Pond	11	7	none	
Green Hill Park Pond	14	456	some	Dolichospermum, Oscillatoria, Gomphosphaeria
Indian Lake	27	565	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia
Jordan Pond	15	260	high	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Woronichinia
Kiver Pond	250	976	none	
Patch Reservoir	21	4702	some	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia
Lake Quinsigamond Lake Park	28	349	high	Dolichospermum, Aphanocapsa, Gomphosphaeria
Lake Quinsigamond Kings Point	13	278	high	Aphanocapsa, Gomphosphaeria
Little Indian Lake	646	7844	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Planktolyngbya
Manchaug Pond	8	34	none	
Newton Pond	5	35	low	Oscillatoria
Stevens Pond	6	7	Low	Woronichinia
Crystal Pond	12	470	none	
Lake Lashaway	17	400	high	Dolichospermum

Previous Results for Lake's Not Tested this Period

Bell Pond	ND	18	none	
Burncoat Pond	158	621	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris
Elm Park Pond	619	13668	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris
Patch Pond	71	3259	some	Dolichospermum
Salisbury Pond	32	271	low	Oscillatoria

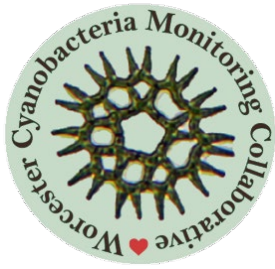
Risk of Exposure	Phycocyanin ug/l	Particles/ml	Comparative density of cyanobacteria
Almost none	0-15	0-1000	none
Low	15-20	1000-5000	low
Elevated	20-50	5000-10000	some
Blooming	>50	>10000	high

See reverse side for details

Results are based on methods that are not certified by the Commonwealth of MA but are presented as recommendations so that lake uses can make informed choices about their contact. We encourage people to use their best judgement, and "If in doubt, stay out!"

If you or your pet has been exposed to water that may contain cyanotoxins, rinse the areas with tap water immediately. If your pet has ingested scums or water containing cyanobacteria, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

[Learn more at WorcesterMA.gov/WCMC](http://WorcesterMA.gov/WCMC)



Interpreting WCMC Results

If you or your pet has been exposed to water that may contain cyanotoxins, rinse with tap water immediately. Do not let animals lick their fur. If your pet has ingested scums or water containing cyanobacteria, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible and see these CDC guidelines:

[Cyanobacterial Blooms: Information for Veterinarians | Harmful Algal Blooms | CDC.](#)

The WCMC is a group of volunteer community scientists that is developing ways to assess risk to cyanotoxin exposure using fast and low cost methods. These results are based on methods that are not certified by the Commonwealth of MA but are presented as recommendations so that lake users can make informed choices about their contact.

We encourage people to use their best judgement, and "If in doubt, stay out!"

The WCMC does not measure cyanotoxins, instead the group uses four parameters to determine the **risk of cyanotoxin exposure**. These include **phycocyanin concentration**, **particle concentration**, **cyanobacteria density**, and the **cyanobacteria observed**. Each of the results are ranked and given a color to identify severity. The overall risk of exposure at each lake is determined by reviewing all four parameters together.

Risk of Exposure	Phycocyanin ug/l	Particles/ml	Comparative density of cyanobacteria
Almost none	0-15	0-1000	none
Low	15-20	1000-5000	low
Elevated	20-50	5000-10000	some
Blooming	>50	>10000	high

ND = Below detection limits

Risk of Exposure: Overall risk of exposure to cyanotoxins in the waterbody based on a holistic interpretation of the data collected.

Phycocyanin: Cyanobacteria-specific pigment concentration in the water. The more phycocyanin there is in the water, the more cyanobacteria are present. However, because different kinds of cyanobacteria produce different quantities of phycocyanin, the risk of toxin production is different for the same concentration of phycocyanin when there are different cyanobacteria present.

Particle Concentration: Particles include living and non-living materials and can be a proxy for overall turbidity of the water. High concentrations of particles in the water can be indicative of cyanobacteria blooms, but can also be the result of other factors such as non-living debris and sediment. The phycocyanin concentrations and cyanobacteria density help to interpret if particles are due to cyanobacteria or other sources.

Cyanobacteria Density: The ratio of cyanobacteria to other organisms in the sample. Higher densities can indicate elevated risk of exposure to cyanotoxins. Density results do not consider concentration, but in general, systems dominated by cyanobacteria are at higher risk for producing toxins.

Cyanobacteria Observed: Genera of cyanobacteria identified in the sample. Because different cyanobacteria have different levels of phycocyanin, observed cyanobacteria help determine the threshold of phycocyanin that is considered risky.