Blue-green Algae

Know it.

Report it.

Avoid it.
Avoid blooms in surface waters because blue-green algae can cause health effects in people and animals.

Know it.

It might be a blue-green algae bloom if you see:
- Strongly colored water.
- Paint-like appearance.
- Floating mats or scums.

Avoid it.

Always stay away from blooms in surface waters:
- Don’t swim, fish, boat or wade in areas with blooms.
- Don’t eat fish caught from areas with blooms.

If you’re not on a public water supply:
- Bloom or no bloom, never drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with untreated surface water.
- During a bloom, don’t drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with untreated surface water, even if you treat it. Also consider not using the water for showering, bathing, or washing.

If you are on a public water supply:
- Your water is treated, disinfected and monitored for drinking and household use.

Report it.

- Report blooms to: HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov, your local health department (health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts) or harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov
- Report bloom-related symptoms to: your local health department or harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov
- Consider visiting a health care provider if you, your family or animals are experiencing symptoms that might be related to blue-green algae exposure.

Learn more health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae