

What are signs of possible exposure to cyanobacterial or cyanotoxins in people?

The following symptoms may occur within 48 hours of exposure to a waterbody with a suspected or confirmed algal bloom:

- sore throat or congestion;
- coughing, wheezing, or difficulty breathing;
- red, or itchy skin, or a rash;
- skin blisters or hives;
- earache or irritated eyes;
- diarrhea or vomiting;
- agitation;
- headache; and/or,
- abdominal pain.

People can also experience eye irritation, skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold or flu-like symptoms.

Potential symptoms in dogs following exposure to blue-green algae toxins can include lethargy, difficulty breathing, salivation, vomiting, urination, diarrhea, or convulsions.

If people show symptoms of cyanotoxin and/or cyanobacteria exposure after contact with water, or with scums or mats of algae, they should receive immediate medical attention.

While there is no antidote for exposures, persons should see their physician and those with pets which may have been exposed should go to their veterinarian for supportive care.

CHECK FOR ALGAE

Toxic algal mats may be present in this water

Mats can be attached to the bottom, detached and floating, or washed up on shore

Common examples



If you see algal mats:



Do NOT let children or adults touch, eat, or swallow any algal mats.



Do NOT let dogs eat algal mats or drink from the water.

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after contacting or ingesting algae. For more information on toxic algae visit: mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs
For local information, contact:

If you or a family member think you may have been exposed to toxic blue green algae and If you suspect that you are ill because of contact with contaminated water you should seek the advice of a medical professional, Kima:w Medical Center (530)625-4261.

In case of emergency please call 911.



Hoopa Tribal EPA

Phone: 530-625-5515

Fax: 530-625-5446



Harmful algae blooms:

a public health concern



Hoopa Tribal Land Management/

Hoopa Tribal EPA

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ALGAE AND CYANOBACTERIA CAN FORM BLOOMS

Algae and cyanobacteria are simple organisms that live in the water. Algae and cyanobacteria can rapidly grow out of control, or “bloom,” when water is warm, slow-moving, and full of nutrients.

Blooms can occur in fresh water, marine (salt) water, and brackish (a mixture of fresh and salt) water around the world. Blooms can look like foam, scum, mats, or paint on the surface of the water. A bloom can change the color of the water to green, blue, brown, red, or another color.

The inset photos on this page show some common areas around Hoopa that typically are places where harmful algae are likely to be found. Slow moving or stagnant edge water, backwater pools or shallow slow moving areas with warmer than normal water temperatures are conditions in which algae prefer.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

HAB EXAMPLES

- Slicks of Opaque, bright green paint
- Oily sheen
- Bluish-green dots, resembles pea soup
- Parallel streaks on water surface

NON-HARMFUL ALGAE

- Thick mats on water or attached to bottom
- Looks stringy, silky and hairy

SOME BLOOMS CAN BE HARMFUL

Blooms can be harmful to people, animals, or the environment if they:

1. Produce toxins (poisons);
2. Become too dense;
3. Use up the oxygen in the water; or Release harmful gases.

People and animals (including pets, livestock, and wildlife) can get sick when they have contact with water or food that contains certain types of algae, cyanobacteria, or their toxins.

People and animals can get sick if they:

1. Swim, wade, or play in or near contaminated water;
2. Eat contaminated fish or shellfish; or
3. Use contaminated drinking water.

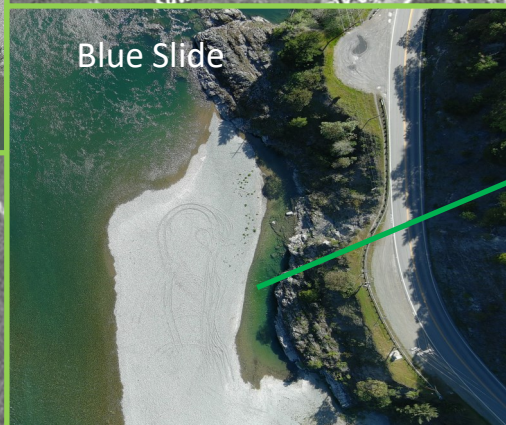
There are many types of algal and cyanobacterial toxins. The signs and symptoms they can cause in people and animals are not all the same. Blooms in fresh water can cause different symptoms than blooms in marine (salt) water.

Symptoms depend on:

- How a person or animal was exposed (came into contact with algae, cyanobacteria, or their toxins)
- How long they were exposed
- Which type of toxin was present
- How much toxin was present



Takimilding



Blue Slide



Tsewenalding



Medilding