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Public health advisory lifted for Dorena Reservoir

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Dorena Reservoir, located six miles east of Cottage Grove, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Lane County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect Aug. 13, 2009.

Water monitoring has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae, which can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.

These reduced levels are not likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

DHS advises people who recreate in Oregon water bodies always to be alert to signs of algae blooms. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water. Boating is safe as long as speeds do not create excessive water spray, which could lead to inhalation risk.

For local information contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Willamette Valley Recreation Office, 541-942-5631.

For health information, contact the DHS Harmful Bloom Surveillance program at 971-673-0400 or www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hab; also, the DHS toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.

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