

## **WARNING ON USE OF BERTINETTI LAKE**

You may have noticed some algae growing in the lake in recent days. It had a different appearance from the duckweed we experience from time to time. After sending pictures to the Illinois EPA, we have now been advised that it is a type of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom. Attached you will see a recent warning from IDPH that these blooms are impacting lakes and rivers throughout Illinois. While many blooms can be harmless, some can produce toxic chemicals that can cause sickness and other health effects in people and pets, depending upon the amount and type of exposure. Children and dogs are particularly susceptible because they have smaller body mass and are more likely to ingest water.

It is impossible to tell if a bloom is actively producing toxins without lab analysis and even then, it would need to be repeated often until the bloom dissipates. It is not recommended to treat the bloom. Killing the bacteria causes the release of toxins all at once which is not favorable for lakes and wildlife, including a possible fish kill. The recommendation is to let the bloom run its course, which could be from a couple of days to a few weeks. Some blooms can even last up to a month.

**Because of this risk, the Bertinetti Lake Front Property Owner's Association warns you should avoid all contact with the water until the bloom dissipates. This includes swimming, boating, and fishing. You should also take steps to prevent any harm to your pets.**

Please understand that this is not a condition that anyone caused or that could have been prevented. The weather conditions in Illinois, along with the use of farm and lawn fertilizers that find their way into the lake, and other natural conditions lead to blooms. We have been fortunate not to have this type of serious bloom previously, but it is something now impacting all of the state of Illinois and other states. Below are some websites where you can find more information about the problem of blue-green algae cyanobacteria:

<https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/harmful-algal-blooms>

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/freshwater-harmful-algal-blooms-101>

[Blue-Green Algae and Harmful Algal Blooms \(HABs\) - Algal Bloom \(illinois.gov\)](#)

[lake-beat-spring-summer-13.pdf \(state.il.us\)](#)