

NEWS RELEASE

Health Advisories Lifted in North Idaho

Panhandle Health District – November 15, 2024



Image of a HAB along a shoreline

Panhandle Health District (PHD) in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare (IDHW) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have lifted all harmful algal bloom public health advisories for water bodies within the five northernmost counties of Idaho. Field testing on all water bodies has concluded for the season.

The public should continue to take precaution as HABs can occur year-round.

Idaho's active HAB advisories are listed here:

<https://www.gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov/recreational-water-health-advisories>.

Cyanobacteria are a natural part of Idaho's water bodies. When temperatures rise, their populations can bloom and toxic chemical compounds, or cyanotoxins, can be released into the water. Caution should be taken anywhere water appears discolored or murky as HABs can spread or move with wind and water currents. HABs have the potential to produce dangerous toxins especially when accumulated in high concentrations. The physical appearance of these blooms can vary, presenting as discolored water, streaks or globs of scum and can cause thick green mats along lake shorelines. Pets, children, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems are most at-risk of harmful exposure.

For more information about harmful algal blooms, visit DEQ's website at:

<https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/cyanobacteria-harmful-algal-blooms/>

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Panhandle Health District provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.