



WARNING!

Kia tupato!

Toxic algae is in this part of the waterway

Toxins produced by algae can kill dogs and make humans and other animals sick.

IF YOU SEE TOXIC ALGAE

Keep your hands off



Keep out of the water

Don't handle debris on waters edge



Keep your dog out of the water. Don't let your dog scavenge or play in or near the water



Don't fish.



LOOK OUT FOR



Lake algae

If the water is cloudy, discoloured, or has small globules suspended in it, it is better to be cautious and totally avoid the waterway.

For further information visit www.ecan.govt.nz search: toxic algae
For information on health risks phone (03) 687 2600 Community & Public Health

Media Release

Issued: 16 March 2023

Health Warning – Algal Bloom in Lake Hood and canals

Te Mana Ora | Community and Public Health has issued a health warning after potentially toxic blue-green algae (planktonic cyanobacteria) was found in Lake Hood and its canals.

People should avoid the Lake and animals, particularly dogs, should not be allowed near the water until the health warning has been lifted.

Dr Cheryl Brunton, Medical Officer of Health of Te Mana Ora, National Public Health Service, says the algal bloom can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.

“People should avoid contact with the water until further notice.”

“Exposure may cause skin rashes, nausea, stomach cramps, tingling and numbness around the mouth and fingertips. If you experience any of these symptoms visit your doctor immediately and please let your doctor know if you have had contact with the lake water”, Dr Brunton says.

No one should drink the water from the lake at any time. Boiling the water does not remove the toxin.

Animals that show signs of illness after coming into contact with algal mats or scums should be taken to a vet immediately.

Fish and shellfish can concentrate toxins and their consumption should be avoided. If fish are eaten, remove the gut and liver and wash in clean water.

Further information on gathering Mahinga Kai can be obtained below.

“When a bloom of potentially toxic cyanobacteria is present in a lake, there is a possibility of cyanobacteria and toxins being transported downstream.

“People are advised to avoid contact with the downstream water bodies,” says Dr Brunton.

Environment Canterbury continues to monitor the lake on a regular basis and the public will be advised of any changes in water quality that are of public health significance.

Facts about cyanobacteria

- Cyanobacteria occur naturally but can increase rapidly during warmer months.
- Algal blooms are caused by a combination of nutrients in the water (such as nitrogen and phosphorus), and favourable weather conditions (e.g. increased temperature, calm days).
- If the water is cloudy, discoloured, or has small globules suspended in it, avoid all contact.
- Not all cyanobacterial blooms are visible to the naked eye and toxins can persist after the blooms disappear.
- Cyanobacterial concentrations can change quickly with changing environmental conditions (e.g. wind). If a health warning is in place avoid contact with the water.

For further details visit: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/canterbury-region/>

Or contact Te Mana Ora on (03) 364 1777:

<https://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/recreational-water/>

For more information about Mahinga Kai:

<https://www.cph.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/saf0112.pdf>

For further information, contact:

communications@cdhb.health.nz

ENDS