

# NOTICE

## POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS FROM BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

New Mexico lakes and reservoirs have blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). Under certain conditions blue-green algae can produce toxins that have been linked to human and animal illnesses. Blue-green algae blooms can occur anytime, but most often occur in late summer or early fall. Not every algae bloom result in a toxic condition. Toxic events are not predictable, and you cannot tell if a bloom is toxic by looking at it.

### SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS:

- Rash, hives, or skin blisters.
- Runny eyes and nose, sore throat, asthma-like symptoms, or allergic reaction.
- Acute, severe abdominal pain, diarrhea and/or vomiting, and nervous system effects including dizziness and numbness.
- Symptoms may take minutes to days after exposure to show up in people or animals.

### PREVENTION:

- Don't swim, water ski, or boat in areas where the water is discolored or where you see foam, scum, or mats of algae on the water.
- If you, your children, pets or livestock do swim in water suspected to contain blue-green algae, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.
- Avoid swallowing, ingesting, or inhaling water from algal bloom areas.

***GET MEDICAL TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY IF YOU THINK YOU, YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR PET, OR YOUR LIVESTOCK MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED AND ARE SHOWING SYMPTOMS.***

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

<b>NM State Parks Division</b>	<b>505-476-3355</b>
<b>NM Environment Department</b>	<b>505-827-0314</b>
<b>NM Department of Health</b>	<b>1-800-879-3421</b>
<b>NM Poison Control Center</b>	<b>1-800-222-1222</b>

