



Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

401-222-5960

RI Relay: 711

www.health.ri.gov

September 14, 2012

Dear Town Official:

A Health Advisory has been issued for Scott Pond in Lincoln based on evidence of a bloom of cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae. This algae may produce a dangerous toxin that can be harmful to people and animals if touched or ingested. For more information about the appearance and dangers of cyanobacteria, see the included posters.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) advises people to avoid all contact with waters from this pond, including recreational activities such as swimming and boating. People should not eat fish from this body of water.

This Health Advisory will remain in place until further notice. The Health Advisory can only be lifted if sampling conducted by your town or by a third party demonstrates that the algae bloom threat has abated. While this Health Advisory is in place, you can take some important steps to keep the people and pets in your community safe.

- Post the included posters around Scott Pond. These posters explain the algae bloom threat and provide health and safety guidance to the public.
- Use your public communications channels to make sure that people who usually fish, swim, or let their pets swim in this body of water are aware of the dangers of cyanobacteria.
- Alert people with property around this body of water of the dangers of cyanobacteria.
- Alert any animal control officers in your city or town to the cyanobacteria in Scott Pond.

This Health Advisory was issued following criteria established by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM).

If you have questions or concerns about the health effects of cyanobacteria or about this Health Advisory, see www.health.ri.gov/healthrisks/poisoning/cyanobacteria or call the HEALTH Information Line: 401-222-5960.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep Rhode Islanders safe this summer and fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vanderslice".

Robert Vanderslice, PhD
Rhode Island Department of Health
Healthy Homes and Environment Team