

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **Swanson Reservoir Remains on Health Alert**

For the third week in a row Swanson Reservoir remains on health alert for toxic algae blooms. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) wants to remind everyone the water is still unsafe and should be avoided.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) like the one happening at Swanson Reservoir can produce dangerous toxins that can make people and animals sick. Symptoms of exposure to toxic algae depend on how you were exposed. Skin contact like swimming or other water activities can lead to rashes or blisters on the skin or inside the eyes, nose, or mouth. Swallowing the water can cause stomach pain, headaches, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle weakness, or liver damage.

Avoid getting sick by staying out of the water and keeping your pets out of the water. Rinse off immediately if you do get exposed to the water, and do not let pets drink the water or lick their fur until they have been rinsed off.

If you get symptoms after being exposed to toxic algae, contact your healthcare provider. Let them know you might have come into contact with an algal bloom or its toxins. There are no special treatments, but they can help you manage your symptoms.

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) conducts weekly testing for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), also known as toxic blue-green algae, from May through September. You can find the current lake health alerts on the NDEE Beach Watch website, <https://deq-iis.ne.gov/zs/bwl/>.

For more information call SWNPHD at 308-345-4223. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. The website [swhealth.ne.gov](http://swhealth.ne.gov) contains many resources and additional information helpful to prevent disease, promote wellness, and protect health. You can also follow SWNPHD on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

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