VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   August 21, 2019
Media Contact: Lorrie Andrew-Spear, Lorrie.Andrew-Spear@VDH.virginia.gov

Harmful Algae Bloom Advisory Issued for Upper and Middle Pamunkey (including Terry's Run) as well as Upper North Anna Branches – Lake Anna In Orange, Louisa and Spotsylvania Counties
Public Advised to Avoid Water Contact within Locations of the Lake

(Richmond, Va.) –The Upper and Middle Pamunkey Branches as well as the Upper North Anna Branch of Lake Anna in Orange, Louisa and Spotsylvania counties are experiencing a harmful algae bloom (HAB). **The public is advised to avoid contact with the lake in these areas until algae concentrations return to acceptable levels.** Some harmful algae, called cyanobacteria, can cause skin rash and gastrointestinal illnesses, such as upset stomach, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The areas to avoid can be seen on an interactive map at www.SwimHealthyVA.com.

Routine monitoring occurs monthly above Route 208 on Lake Anna. Test results indicate samples collected August 13th at sites within these areas contained potentially harmful algae (cyanobacteria) which exceed safe swimming levels. People and pets are advised to avoid swimming, windsurfing and stand-up-paddle-boarding as well as other activities which pose a risk of ingesting water or exposure to skin. Advisory signs will be posted in areas of the lake.

Swimming advisories have been issued for the following areas of the lake.

Pamunkey Branch (NO CHANGE FROM PRIOR ADVISORY)
- Upper - From the upper inundated waters of the Pamunkey arm of the lake downstream to the confluence with Terry's Run
- Middle - From the confluence of Terry's Run with Pamunkey Creek downstream to Rt. 612 (Stubbs Bridge)
- Terrys Run - from the upper inundated waters of the lake downstream to the confluence with Pamunkey Creek

North Anna Branch (CONTAINS CHANGES FROM PRIOR ADVISORY; "Middle" REMOVED)

- Upper – From the upper inundated waters of the North Anna arm of the lake downstream to the Rt. 522 Bridge.

Algae blooms can occur when warm water and nutrients combine to make conditions favorable for algae growth. Most algae species are harmless; however, some species may produce irritating compounds or toxins. Avoid discolored water or scums that are green or blueish-green because they are more likely to contain toxins.

continued

To prevent illness, people should:

- Avoid contact with any area of the lake where water is green or an advisory sign is posted, WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!
- Do not allow children or pets to drink from natural bodies of water.
- Keep children and pets out of the areas experiencing a harmful algae bloom and quickly wash them off with plenty of fresh, clean water after coming into contact with algae scum or bloom water.
- If you or your animals experience symptoms after swimming in or near an algal bloom, seek medical/veterinarian care.
- To ensure fish fillets are safe to eat, properly clean fish by removing skin and discarding all internal organs, and cooking fish to the proper temperature.
- If you suspect you experienced health-related effects following exposure to a bloom, contact the Virginia Harmful Algal Bloom Hotline at 1-888-238-6154.
- To learn more about harmful algae blooms or to report an algae bloom or fish kill visit www.SwimHealthyVA.com.

The Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force, which includes the Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Old Dominion Phytoplankton lab, monitor water quality in the lake. In general, advisories may be lifted following two consecutive test results with acceptable levels for algal cell counts and/or toxin concentration. An advisory may be lifted or maintained at the discretion of the health department. For example, after one test an advisory may be lifted if results are below safe levels for swimming, if other information indicates exposure or human health risk is low.

For more information visit www.SwimHealthyVA.com or see the Advisory Report with map on the VDH website.*
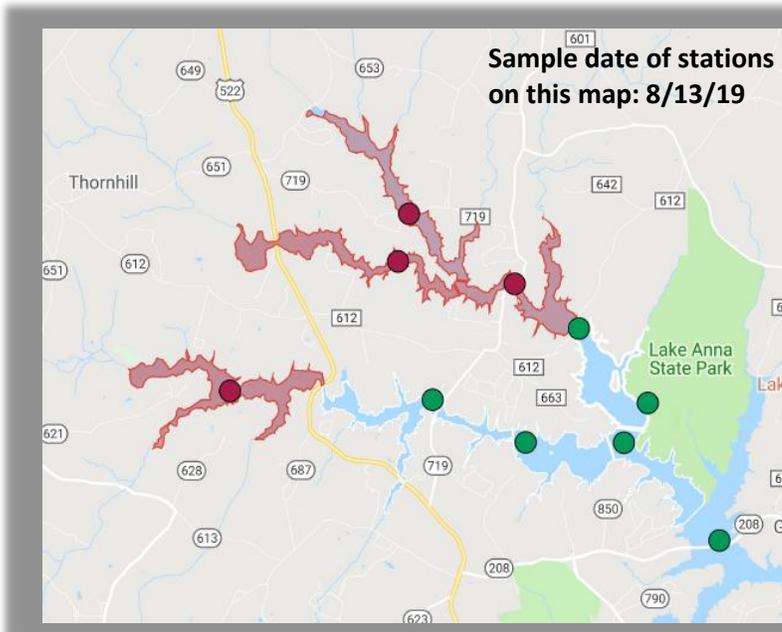
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*Advisory Report with Map link:
http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/12/2019/08/HAB-Report-20190821.pdf

Lake Anna - Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) Report

Issued Wednesday 8/21/19
Next Issue: Early-September (weather dependent)

Sample date of stations on this map: 8/13/19

🔴 Harmful algae (cyanobacteria) concentrations exceed safe levels.

🟢 Harmful algae (cyanobacteria) concentrations below safe levels.

〰️ Lake area under swimming advisory

Helpful Tip!

Visit www.SwimHealthyVa.com and click on the Harmful Algae Bloom Map to review sample results near you!

Expand the map using the symbol in the upper right hand map title bar, then click on the magnifying glass. You can search my location name or address!

View the news release in the VDH Newsroom:
www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/2019-news-releases/

How do I protect myself, my family, and my pets from cyanobacteria blooms?

- 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's surface.
- Do not allow children or pets to play in or drink scummy water.
- If you do swim in water that might contain harmful cyanobacteria, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible afterward.

For more information on current swimming advisories or to report an algae bloom visit:

www.SwimHealthyVA.com

To report a HAB-related illness contact the HAB Hotline:

888-238-6154

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BE AWARE of Harmful Algae Blooms

Water quality is tested to determine if health risks may be present.

During an algae bloom, water may have surface scum, mats, or films with red, green, white streaks, or glops.