

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
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Lt. Governor

EHS Circular Letter # 2013-37

DATE: July 12, 2013

TO: Directors of Health and Chief Sanitarians

FROM: Suzanne Blancaflor, MS, MPH, Chief
Environmental Health Section

RE: Guidance to LHD for Blue-Green Algae Blooms in Recreational Freshwaters

Please note the attached July 2013 version of the document “Guidance to Local Health Departments for Blue–Green Algae Blooms in Recreational Freshwaters”. This guidance was compiled by personnel of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Environmental Health Section in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health.

Blue-green algae blooms have raised concerns in Connecticut and across the nation. The guidance document was developed following a review of current information regarding this topic and is designed to assist local health officials in managing this emerging public health concern. The DPH anticipates that the guidance will be updated based upon feedback that is provided by local health officials.

This guidance is intended to provide flexibility to local health officials in the manner that they manage a particular bloom. Local health officials are given discretion to make management decisions based upon a visual assessment of water conditions or by relying upon laboratory methods. Local officials are encouraged to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of each of these approaches given the specific circumstances associated with the bloom. The DPH Environmental Health Section is available to assist and support local health officials in addressing their community’s health concerns.

Please contact Stewart Chute, Toxicologist with the Environmental Health Section at (860) 509-7758.

Cc Ellen Blaschinski, RS, MBA, Chief, Regulatory Services Branch
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