

Chippewa Lake Reopened, but Warning Remains in Place

With two consecutive weeks of test results showing algal toxins have dropped below the 20 parts per billion threshold, Chippewa Lake has been reopened to the public. However, a public health advisory for pets and vulnerable persons to avoid water contact remains in place. Test results received October 5 from water samples collected October 3 show microcystin toxin levels have decreased to 3.74 parts per billion, down from 8.29 ppb on September 28.

Per Ohio's Harmful Algal Bloom Response Strategy for Recreational Waters, a Recreational Public Health Advisory is issued when toxin levels reach 6 ppb. It recommends children, pregnant or nursing women, individuals with certain medical conditions, and pets avoid contact with the water. When toxin levels reach 20 ppb, an Elevated Recreational Public Health Advisory is issued, warning all persons to avoid all contact with the water. Chippewa Lake was closed Sept. 8 when toxin levels first exceeded 20 ppb.

Public health advisories remain in effect until two consecutive tests taken at least one week apart show levels have dropped below the thresholds outlined in the Harmful Algal Bloom Response Strategy for Recreational Waters. The Recreational Public Health Advisory will be lifted if next week's test results show levels remain below 6 ppb.

The toxins are a result of algal blooms that occur in bodies of water due to a combination of factors including water temperature, rainfall, and nutrient runoff within the watershed. The Chippewa Lake algal bloom is the result of a microscopic organism called cyanobacteria. Its blooms can produce harmful toxins that may make people and pets sick when they come into contact with the water.

Medina County Park District will continue to monitor Chippewa Lake as needed. Samples collected by the park district's natural resource staff are sent to Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for testing. Results typically are reported back to the park district in three to five working days.

Below are the ongoing 2017 test results for algal bloom toxins in Chippewa Lake:

<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Results Received</u>	<u>Toxin Level</u>	<u>Action</u>
6/8/17	6/15/17	11.06 ppb	Warning posted
6/15/17	6/19/17	7.64 ppb	
6/21/17	6/26/17	5.10 ppb	
6/27/17	6/29/17	8.18 ppb	
7/5/17	7/7/17	9.62 ppb	
7/11/17	7/13/17	10.75 ppb	
7/18/17	7/21/17	6.24 ppb	
7/25/17	7/27/17	6.07 ppb	
8/1/17	8/3/17	6.18 ppb	
8/8/17	8/11/17	10.50 ppb	
8/15/17	8/17/17	3.52 ppb	
8/22/17	8/25/17	5.05 ppb	Warning removed
9/5/17	9/8/17	20.02 ppb	Lake closed
9/12/17	9/14/17	9.02 ppb	
9/19/17	9/21/17	22.3 ppb	
9/26/17	9/28/17	8.29 ppb	
10/3/17	10/5/17	3.74 ppb	Lake reopens, warning remains