

<p><b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 09/28/2018</b></p> <p>TO: Grant County Media, Healthcare Providers, Veterinarians</p>	<p><b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT</b></p> <p>Theresa Adkinson, Administrator 509-766-7960 ext. 24</p> <p>Jon Ness, Environmental Health Manager 509-766-7960 ext. 26</p>
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**GCHD is advising the public to avoid contact with O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir in all areas.**

**O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir, WA-** The Washington State Department of Ecology recently took a sample to test for the spread of toxins from blue-green algae in O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir. The sample came back with toxin levels higher than the Washington State recreational guidelines. Blue-Green algae toxins may be present in all parts of O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir. GCHD will continue testing the lake weekly until sample results show toxin levels are below the Washington State recreational guidelines. GCHD has posted caution and warning signs around public access points to O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir. The signs at both Moses Lake and O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir will remain up until the algae toxin levels are below recreational guidelines for two consecutive weeks.

**GCHD is advising:**

- Avoid contact with O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir water areas
  - Including recreational water activities (skiing, wakeboarding, etc.)
- Do not drink the lake water
- Keep all pets & livestock away from the lake water
- Clean fish caught in O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoirs well and discard their guts



If you are a private citizen and wish to sample the lake in your area, please see sampling and testing instructions [here](#).

**Health & Safety Information:**

The type of blue-green algae that is present in O’Sullivan/Potholes Reservoir produce Microcystin toxin, which can cause serious illness in people, pets, and livestock.

- Symptoms may take 15 minutes to 24 hours (usually within one hour) to appear, depending upon the size of the person or animal affected and the amount of toxic bloom consumed. Microcystin toxicosis may include jaundice, shock, abdominal pain/distention, weakness, nausea/vomiting, severe thirst, rapid/weak pulse and death.



### What is Blue-Green Algae Bloom?

These algae blooms grow rapidly in fresh water when there is enough sunlight, high temperatures, and nutrients in the water. It often looks like green paint floating on the water. It is common for Grant County waters to have blue-green algae in the summer and fall, but not all blue-green algae blooms are toxic.

- Pet owners should not allow their pets to play in or drink water where blue-green algae are present as these toxins can kill pets.



### What are the signs of toxic blue-green algae?

- Large number of dead fish, birds, or other animals.
- Sudden and unexplained sickness or death of a dog or cat who has recently been in contact with fresh water such as a lake or pond, especially if it has algae on its mouth, legs or feet.
- People can develop skin rashes after being in the water or become ill.

### Additional Resources

[Blue-Green Algae](#) | WA- DOH

[Washington State Toxic Algae](#) | WA- DOH & WA- Department of Ecology

[Freshwater Water Quality Information](#) | WA Department of Ecology

[Toxic Algae Database](#) — Find out which freshwater lakes have toxic algae (WA Dept of Ecology)

[Blue-Green Algae Illness](#) | CDC

[Toxic Blue-Green Algae Blooms Brochure](#) [PDF]

### Consultation

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