

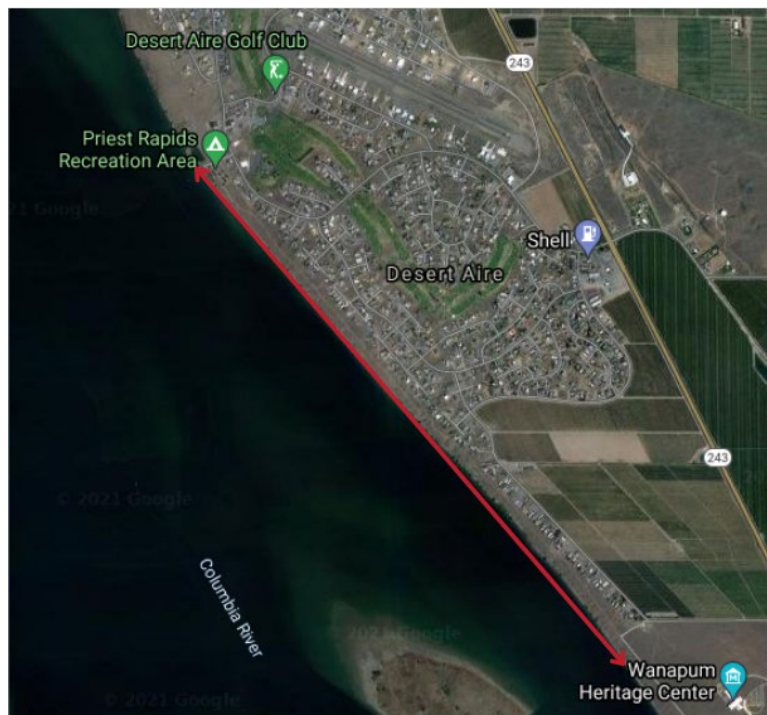
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 20, 2021

## **Public Health Advisory**

### **Potential Harmful Algae Bloom Near Priest Rapids Dam**

Grant County, WA – Grant County Health District is warning the public of potential blue-green algae near Priest Rapids Dam after a report was made of a dog becoming ill following time spent in the Priest Rapids Recreation Area, and soon after, passing away. The public should avoid contact with water near Desert Aire along the shoreline and keep a lookout for blue-green algae blooms.



GCHD is advising:

- Avoid all contact with water near shorelines
- Do not drink the lake water
- Keep all pets & livestock away from the lake water

For the public's safety, the Priest Rapids Recreation Area has been closed until further notice. GCHD staff is collecting water samples and posting warnings on the shore. An investigation is underway and additional information will be shared next week.

Blue-green algae can be present in any fresh water body and looks like green, blue-green, white or brown scum, foam or mats floating on the water. Warm water and abundant nutrients can cause algae to grow more rapidly than usual and these "blooms" can produce natural toxins that are potent and dangerous.

Symptoms in people may include eye irritation, skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea.

Please take the following precautions when choosing a body of water for recreation:

- Look for signs of algae blooms and pay attention to signage. When in doubt, stay out!
- Do not swim in and limit exposure to water that is under a health advisory or is listed as having a toxic algae bloom on the [Washington State Department of Ecology toxic algae tracking site](#).
- Individuals who swim or play in lakes, rivers and streams should shower with soap and water when done.
- Contact a health care provider immediately if you become ill or have [symptoms](#) after a suspected exposure to an algae bloom.

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