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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Public Health Advisory**

### **Harmful Algae Bloom Present and Contact with the Water Should be Avoided in Moses Lake**

Grant County, WA – Grant County Health District is warning the public after samples taken from Connelly Park had microcystin results that are above the **8ug/L** recreational guidance value. Samples were collected on September 22, 2021, by Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District. The samples ranged from **3.8-4677 ug/L**. These results are a reminder that toxins can be present in “patches” and people should be aware of their surroundings. Blooms and toxins can move around from day to day or even hour to hour depending on winds and currents.

Recreational limit =  
**8ug/L.**

Sample Range =  
**3.8-4677ug/L.**

Given the history of microcystins in Moses Lake shown by sampling over previous years, it is possible toxins are present in other areas of the lake and blooms were observed at Cascade Park and the Sand Dunes today.

The type of blue-green algae that is present in Moses Lake produce Microcystin toxin, which can cause serious illness in people, pets, and livestock.

- Symptoms may take 30 minutes to 24 hours to appear, depending upon the size of the person or animal affected and the amount of toxic bloom consumed. Microcystin toxicosis may include allergic reactions from rashes to gastrointestinal distress from nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain/distention, whole body weakness, severe thirst from dehydration, jaundice, rapid/weak pulse, and rarely to shock progressing to death.

This is not the same kind of toxin suspected in the dog death in Grant County earlier this year after exposure to the Columbia River near Desert Aire.

GCHD is advising:

- Avoid all contact with Moses Lake 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 Moses Lake well and discard remains

GCHD will be posting warning signs around Moses Lake. Pictures of signs are available on our website. <https://granthealth.org/blue-green-algae-monitoring/>

Due to funding, GCHD will only be able to take 1 sample per week until funding is exhausted or the toxins are no longer detected. Based on previous year's data toxins may stay present through October when temperatures drop.

- Sampling activities are currently being coordinated through the Surveillance by Citizens, Users, and Managers (CSCUM) volunteer monitoring group overseen by GCHD.

“We would like to remind folks that sampling only provides a snapshot in time of conditions present at the time the sampling took place. We know the public would like to know what is present in their community lake, but the reality is that we don't have enough data, staff, or surveillance sampling to know what is always present in all parts of the lake. The warning advisory will remain in effect until toxins are no longer detected,” said Stephanie Shopbell, Environmental Health Manager at Grant County Health District.

Sample results and locations can be found on our website <https://granthealth.org/blue-green-algae-monitoring/>

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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