

**FOR RELEASE:** September 10, 2010

**CONTACT:** Heidi Hetzel-Evans, ODNR, (614) 265-6860  
Public Interest Center, Ohio EPA, (614) 644-2160  
Jen House, ODH, (614) 644-8562

### **More Drinking Water System Results: Surface Water Advisories Continue**

Due to the presence of algal toxins found within the water of a number of inland lakes across Ohio and Lake Erie, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are releasing a comprehensive list of updated sampling results for algal toxins including microcystin, anatoxin-a, cylindrospermopsin and saxitoxin. All state parks remain open.

#### **Western Lake Erie Public Drinking Water Systems**

No algal toxins were detected in treated drinking water from 11 western Lake Erie public water systems being sampled by Ohio EPA. Laboratory results from the fourth week of sampling, conducted this week, found only low levels of microcystin in the raw (untreated) water at two of the systems. Microcystin was at 3.8 ppb in the raw water at Marblehead and at trace levels (0.23 ppb) at Oregon.

The systems being sampled weekly are: Toledo, Oregon, Carroll Township (Ottawa County), Ottawa County Regional Water, Marblehead, Kelleys Island, Camp Patmos (Kelleys Island), Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie Utilities (Middle Bass Island), Sandusky and Huron.

Algal toxins in drinking water are not currently regulated by Ohio EPA or U.S. EPA. World Health Organization guidelines consider levels below 1.0 ppb in treated drinking water a minimal health risk.

#### **REMAINING:**

##### **Grand Lake St. Marys:**

Microcystin levels at Grand Lake St. Marys (Auglaize and Mercer counties) continue to fall. Samples taken this week at Campground, West and East beaches had levels ranging from 2.7 to 3.4 ppb. Campground and East Beaches each registered 3.4 ppb. Trace levels of anatoxin-a are still present at the beaches, ranging from 0.05 to 0.1 ppb. Saxitoxin and cylindrospermopsin were not detected. Microcystin levels at Celina's water intake pipe were between 1.1 and 3.0 ppb. No algal toxins have been detected in the city's treated drinking water.

Because anatoxin-a still is present at the beaches, the toxin advisory recommending no direct contact with the water remains in place. This means swimming and similar activities are not recommended. However, boating is an acceptable activity.

##### **Wingfoot Lake State Park:**

Wingfoot Lake remains under a toxin advisory. Results of the September 7 sampling showed microcystin ranged from 6.6 ppb to 27.0 ppb. Results for the other algal toxins are not yet available.

**LaDue Reservoir:**

Pending September 8 anatoxin-a results, LaDue Reservoir remains under a no contact advisory. Results from September 8 sampling at two locations showed: microcystin 0.20 ppb and 0.22 ppb, saxitoxin 0.101 ppb and 0.108 ppb, and no detections of cylindrospermopsin. Anatoxin-a results are not yet available. Results from the September 2 sampling at a single location showed: microcystin 0.24 ppb, saxitoxin 0.151 ppb, anatoxin-a 0.4 ppb, and no detection of cylindrospermopsin.

**East Branch Reservoir:**

East Branch Reservoir remains under a toxin advisory. Results from September 8 sampling at two locations showed: microcystin 0.75 ppb and 0.88 ppb, saxitoxin non-detect and 0.045 ppb, and no detections of cylindrospermopsin. Anatoxin-a results are not yet available. Results from September 2 sampling at a single location showed: microcystin 0.39 ppb and no detections of saxitoxin, cylindrospermopsin and anatoxin-a.

**Blue Rock State Park:**

A trace amount (0.2 parts per billion) of microcystin was found in the September 6 sample taken from the biomass (algae mat) on Cutler (Blue Rock) Lake (Muskingum County). No microcystin was found in the samples taken at the beach or of the film on the lake's surface. The park continues to provide hauled water for visitors.

**Lake Alma State Park:**

No microcystin was found in the September 6 samples taken from the surface of Lake Alma (Vinton County) and a foot below the lake's surface. Cylindrospermopsin was detected at 0.4 ppb at the dog park (surface) and a foot below the surface. Saxitoxin was non-detect. No changes have been reported in the water quality conditions at the drinking water plant.

**Burr Oak State Park:**

No microcystin was found in the September 7 sample taken from Burr Oak Lake (Athens and Morgan counties). No changes have been reported in the water quality conditions at the drinking water plant.

**SUMMARY OF ADVISORIES:**

**No Contact Advisory:** Avoid any and all contact with and ingestion of the lake water. This includes launching watercraft on the lakes.

Blue Rock State Park  
LaDue Reservoir

**Toxin Advisory:** Avoid contact with any algae and direct contact with water.

Burr Oak State Park  
Grand Lake St. Marys  
East Branch Reservoir  
Lake Alma State Park  
Maumee Bay State Park (Lake Erie bloom)  
Wingfoot Lake State Park

**Bloom Advisory:** Cautionary advisory to avoid contact with any algae.

East Harbor State Park (Lake Erie bloom)  
Stonelick State Park

The information in this news release is current as of 1 p.m. today. More information about what each advisory means can be found on ODNR's website at:

[ohiodnr.com/tabid/22957/Default.aspx](http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/22957/Default.aspx).

Because toxin levels can fluctuate, the State will continue sampling from the lakes. Advisories will remain in effect until there have been two consecutive weeks of non-detection for anatoxin-

a, saxitoxin and cylindrospermopsin and two consecutive weeks of microcystin below 20 ppb (set by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the upper end of the moderate-risk range for contact with microcystin). There are no WHO standards for the other toxins.

Additional information and data on Harmful Algal Blooms is online at:

Ohio EPA [www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/HAB.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/HAB.aspx)

ODH [www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/algalblooms.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/algalblooms.aspx)

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***www.epa.ohio.gov***