

Current Blue-Green Algae Public Health Advisories

This information is provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment on September 11, 2026.

WHAT IS IT?

A harmful algal bloom (HAB) may look like foam, scum or paint floating on the water and be colored blue, bright green, brown or red. Blooms can develop rapidly; if the water appears suspicious or there is decaying algae on the shore, avoid contact and keep dogs away. These toxins can be absorbed by ingestion, inhalation of aerosols and even skin contact. Symptoms vary depending upon the type of exposure (e.g. direct contact, ingestion, inhalation) but can include rash, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, sore throat and headache. If you, or your dog, come into contact with algae rinse the area with clean, fresh water. Suspected HAB-related health incidents, whether human or animal, regardless of season, should be reported at kdhe.ks.gov/1163.

For information on blue-green algae and reporting potential harmful algal blooms, please visit kdhe.ks.gov/HAB and check out our interactive story.

ACTIVE WARNINGS	HAZARD STATUS	WATCH STATUS	LIFTED
A Warning status indicates that conditions are unsafe for human and pet exposure. Contact with the waterbody should be avoided. When a warning is issued, KDHE recommends the following precautions be taken: • Signage should be posted at all public access locations. • Inhalation of spray or aerosols may be harmful. • Lake water is not safe to drink for pets or livestock. • Lake water, regardless of blue-green algae status, should never be consumed by humans. • Water contact should be avoided. • Fish may be eaten if they are rinsed with clean water and only the fillet portion is consumed, while all other parts are discarded. • Do not allow pets to eat dried algae. • If lake water contacts skin, wash with clean water as soon as possible. • Avoid areas of visible algae accumulation.	A Hazard status indicates that a harmful algal bloom is present, and extreme conditions exist. • Signage should be posted at all public access locations. • It is recommended that either a portion of the lake or the entire lake or zone, be closed to the public. • In some cases, the adjacent land should be closed as well. Actual setback distances will be determined on a site-specific basis, if necessary. • When partial closures (i.e., beach or cove) are issued, the remaining lake or zone area will carry a warning status.	A Watch status means that blue-green algae have been detected and a harmful algal bloom is present or likely to develop. People are encouraged to avoid areas of algae accumulation and keep pets and livestock away from the water. During the watch status, KDHE recommends the following precautions be taken: • Signage will be posted at all public access locations. • Water may be unsafe for humans/animals. • Avoid areas of algae accumulation and do not let people/pets eat dried algae or drink contaminated water. • Swimming, wading, skiing and jet skiing are discouraged near visible blooms. • Boating and fishing are safe. However, inhalation of the spray may affect some individuals. Avoid direct contact with water, and wash with clean water after any contact. • Clean fish well with potable water and eat fillet portion only.	A Lifted status indicates that it is safe to resume normal water-related activities.
KANSAS LAKES IN ACTIVE WARNINGS	KANSAS LAKES IN HAZARD STATUS	KANSAS LAKES IN WATCH STATUS	KANSAS LAKES THAT HAVE BEEN LIFTED
Hiawatha City Lake, Brown County (Elevated Sept. 11) Hain State Fishing Lake, Ford County Lake Charles, Ford County Gathering Pond, Geary County Frazier Lake, Grant County Jetmore City Lake, Hodgeman County (Elevated Sept. 11) Frisco Lake, Johnson County (Added Sept. 11) Melvorn Outlet River Pond, Osage County Lake Scott, Scott County Chisholm Ridge Ponds (Clearwater), Sedgwick County Lake Afton, Sedgwick County Neodesha Riverwalk Park Pond, Wilson County	None	Lone Star Lake, Douglas County Elkhorn Lake, Jackson County Jewell State Fishing Lake, Jewell County Amesbury Lake, Johnson County Kingston Lake, Johnson County Marion County Lake, Marion County Ottawa State Fishing Lake, Ottawa County Jeffrey Energy Center Make-up Lake, Pottawatomie County	Pony Creek Lake, Brown County Gardner City Lake, Johnson County