

**CONESUS LAKE  
BLUE-GREEN ALGAE  
EARLY DETECTION AND  
RAPID RESPONSE PLAN**



Approved by the Conesus Lake Watershed Council – 8/12/2011  
(Amended 1/11/2013)  
(Amended 8/14/2015)

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Purpose.....3

Background..... 3

Mitigation..... 4

    History..... 4

    Objectives..... 4

    Public Education..... 4

Preparedness..... 5

    Objectives..... 5

    Roles.....5

    Bloom Scale Definitions.....5

    Citizen Monitoring Program.....6

    Reporting.....6

    Notification..... 6

    Public Education..... 7

Response.....8

    Procedure.....8

    Site Assessment and Further Testing.....9

Recovery..... 9

    Public Education..... 9

Attachment A – Emergency Notification Checklist.....10

Attachment B – Template Press Release.....11

Attachment C – Blue-Green Algae Assessment Checklist.....12

# **Conesus Lake Blue Green Algae Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan**

## **PURPOSE:**

This Rapid Response Plan has been developed to outline the activities that will be implemented in response to a major blue-green algae bloom on Conesus Lake. This plan identifies actions that are deemed essential to identify a blue green algae bloom, assess its magnitude, and determine the potential for public health concerns associated with a bloom. If public health impacts are expected, notifications to the public will be made to identify actions that residents and lake users can take to protect themselves. Many agencies and organizations have roles identified in this plan and each has responsibilities for implementation of the actions identified. A coordinated response involving all of the agencies identified will provide the best protection for Conesus Lake and the public affected.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Blue-green algae (or as technically known, cyanobacteria) are a group of photosynthetic bacteria that help form the base of the food chain in aquatic ecosystems. Unlike other forms of algae (phytoplankton or “green algae”), blue-green algae are unique in that they can both release harmful toxins and accumulate to form surface scums or blooms that are visible to the naked eye. Together, these two traits can potentially create concentrations of algal toxins at high enough levels to become a threat to the health of humans and animals.

Most of the blue-green algae toxin release occurs as the cell ages and dies causing its cell contents to passively leak out; however, it is not uncommon for young cells to actively release toxins randomly. Not all individual species of blue-green algae produce toxins. Blooms can consist of multiple species together, toxic and non-toxic. It is important to note that in toxic species, toxin release in an algal bloom can vary both spatially and temporally, which renders the overall toxicity of any given bloom uncertain in time and space. This unpredictability causes all blue-green algae blooms, even if they may test negative for known toxins, to be potentially dangerous and suspect at all times.

On any given day, blue-green algae cells are present in Conesus Lake. In late summer, their levels will naturally increase to become a larger relative percentage of the total algae in the Lake. Under normal conditions blue-green algae and their toxins are present at very low and ultimately safe concentrations. Certain environmental and weather conditions can favor blue-green algae reproduction including temperature, precipitation, wind conditions and nutrient loading. When these key factors coincide, a blue-green algae bloom can form, and the toxins produced by the algae can become concentrated enough in the affected area to create a threat to public health.

It is important that the public refrains from using or recreating in water affected by visible blue-green algae blooms and follows certain safety recommendations. Because the visibility of an algae bloom in the water is an indicator of high algal cell concentration and thus maximum potential toxicity, clear waters can generally be regarded as safe for recreation as toxins will be diluted and at safe concentration levels.

## **MITIGATION:**

### History:

The anthropogenic influx of nutrients into Conesus Lake, coupled with the introductions of the invasive Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have created trophic conditions that favor blue-green algae over other types of algae. Climate change models for Western New York predict an increase in heavy precipitation events in the spring and warmer, sunnier conditions for late summer, which may lead to an increase in size and frequency of future blue-green algae blooms.

Conesus Lake has historically experienced localized small, suspected blue-green algal blooms in coves and near-shore areas during the late summer months. The 2010 Honeoye Lake and Sodus Bay experiences and the reality that Conesus Lake could experience a widespread blue-green algae bloom or other harmful algal bloom has prompted the development of this Plan.

### Objectives:

The Blue-Green Algae Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan Work Group consists of representatives from the Conesus Lake Watershed Council (CLWC) Technical Committee. The Livingston County Department of Health and the Livingston County Planning Department are the lead agencies. The Work Group will meet as needed to discuss concerns or issues regarding blue-green algae response and readiness.

### Public Education:

The development of this plan is the first step in educating the public about any future harmful algal blooms in Conesus Lake and what precautions the general public can take if a harmful algal bloom occurs. The Conesus Lake Watershed Council's Public Education and Outreach Committee, working with the Conesus Lake Association (CLA), the Livingston County Department of Health and other communication outlets, will play a key role in public education efforts, which will be focused on blue-green algae identification, necessary safety precautions, and general awareness. A web page will be created and proactively maintained in order to provide information and resources for watershed residents and lake users pertaining to blue-green algae. A tri-fold brochure has also been created to introduce Conesus Lake users to the possibility of a blue-green algae public health threat on the Lake.

(Health advisories will be posted on the Livingston County Department of Health (LCDOH) website in order.)

## **PREPAREDNESS:**

### Objectives:

The unified command will be responsible for implementing the Blue-Green Algae (BGA) Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan by coordinating response efforts of Livingston County, Conesus Lake watershed towns and villages, the CLA, and other agencies. The unified command will include the Livingston County Department of Health (DOH), the Conesus Lake Watershed Manager (CLWM) and the Conesus Lake Association (CLA).

### Roles:

The Livingston County DOH will be responsible for the following:

1. Educating Lake residents and the Sheriff Marine Patrol Deputies to help spot suspect algae blooms.
2. Responding to reports of algal blooms.
3. Testing potentially affected waters for presence of algal and/or toxins (Microcystins Strip Test; Microscope analysis; Identification Verified through SUNY Geneseo).
4. Determining the potential impacts of the blue-green algae bloom on the public water supply and coordinating with Public Water Supplies to ensure protection measures are in place.
5. Assessing public health risks related to recreational use of the water and making recommendations as necessary.
6. Make appropriate notifications to government stakeholders.
7. Preparing public information releases regarding the incident along with the posting of advisory signage at key locations along the lake.

The Conesus Lake Watershed Manager will be responsible for the following:

1. Creating public information to proactively educate lake users on identification and hazards of blue-green algae blooms, how to report a bloom, and the necessary precautions to take to safe guard health in the event of a harmful algal bloom.
2. Working with the CLA and other agencies to develop and distribute public information to lake residents.
3. Assembling website content for a blue-green algae information page.
4. Providing support to the DOH as needed in the early detection and response phases.

The Conesus Lake Association will be responsible for the following:

1. Communicating information about blue-green algae blooms and recommended precautions through its web site and members' communications systems.
2. Working with Department of Health to organize volunteers to take part in a citizen-monitoring program for blue-green algae toxins.

### Bloom Scale Definitions:

Small Localized: Blooms affecting a small area of the Lake, limited from one to several neighboring properties.

Large Localized: Blooms that affect an entire cove, multiple small localized areas, or a specific region of the lake.

Widespread: Blooms affecting the entire lake or a large portion of the lake.

Citizen Monitoring Program:

Training and education will be provided to several Lake residents and the Sheriff Marine Patrol Deputies to differentiate between blue-green algae and other forms of algae and to help spot suspect algae blooms.

Reporting:

Any individual who observes a suspected algal bloom as defined in this Plan should report their observation to the Livingston County Department of Health as soon as possible.

If bloom is observed during business hours (8-4, M-F), call the Livingston County Department of Health, Center for Environmental Health at (585) 243-7280.

1. Complainant provides name, address, and phone number, location of sighting, time of observance and approximate size of bloom.
2. Conesus Lake Watershed Inspector is notified, if Inspector is not available, Livingston County Director of Environmental Health.
3. Watershed Inspector or Environmental Health Director will visit site, speak with complainant, and conduct a field investigation. Samples may be collected in an attempt to confirm the presence of algae and/or the toxins
4. If blue-green algae blooms have already been identified on the Lake in the reported vicinity, reports of blooms and locations will be recorded but an investigation may not be warranted.

If bloom is observed after regular business hours or on a holiday or weekend, call Livingston County Sheriff Department at (585) 243-7100.

1. Complainant provides name, address, and phone number, location of sighting, time of observance and approximate size of bloom to dispatcher.
2. Sheriff dispatcher will call Livingston County Department of Health duty officer with all information received from complainant.
3. Duty officer will contact Conesus Lake Watershed Inspector, if inspector is not available, Livingston County Environmental Health Director will be contacted.
4. Watershed Inspector or Environmental Health Director will visit site, speak with complainant, and conduct a field investigation. Samples may be collected in an attempt to confirm the presence of algae and/or the toxins
5. If blue-green algae blooms have already been identified on the Lake in the reported vicinity, reports of blooms and locations will be recorded but an investigation may not be warranted.

### Notification:

When a blue-green algae bloom is confirmed by the DOH, the DOH will use the “Conesus Lake Watershed Emergency Notification Checklist” as a guide to make appropriate notifications (Attachment A).

### Public Education:

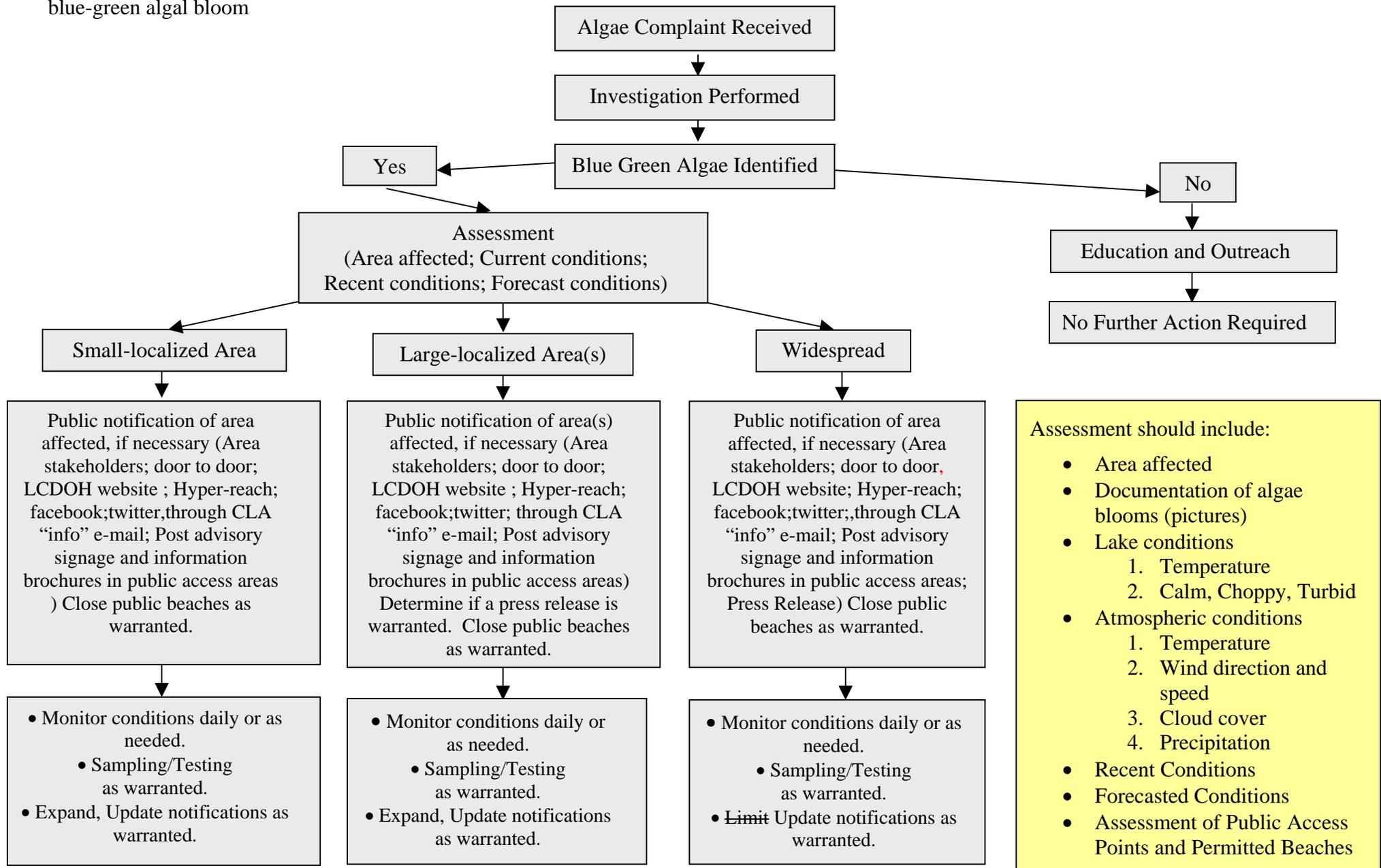
The CLWM, the CLWC’s Public Education and Outreach Committee, along with the CLA, will design and implement a proactive communications program to educate residents about harmful algal bloom potential and this detection and response plan. This proactive communications program will include:

1. A summary of blue-green algae facts and FAQs (i.e. why BGA is a concern to lake users)
2. Blue-green algae identification.
3. Algal bloom reporting procedures.
4. Environmental conditions prompting the formation of blue-green algae blooms.
5. Safety precautions that should be taken by lake users in the event of an algal bloom
6. Best Management Practices watershed residents can implement to reduce nutrient and sediment loading into the lake, thereby reducing the frequency of future occurrences of blue-green algae blooms.
7. The symptoms of blue-green algal toxin exposure, and whom to contact in case of symptoms are present.
8. Health advisory sign posting protocol at public access locations on the Lake.

In the event of a large or widespread blue-green algae bloom, additional public education initiatives may be required. Livingston County, on behalf of the Department of Health will establish an information center and the County’s Public Information Officer (PIO) will issue appropriate press communications. A template press release has been created (Attachment B).

**RESPONSE:**

The DOH response to each blue-green algae bloom will vary by magnitude. The following chart depicts the suggested actions for each category of blue-green algal bloom



### Site Assessment and Further Testing:

Lake and environmental conditions will be recorded at the time of a blue-green algae site visit (Attachment C: Conesus Lake Watershed Blue-Green Algae Assessment Checklist).

A visual pre-screening will be performed. The procedure is as follows:

1. Go to bloom site.
2. Photograph bloom: Take several pictures of suspicious algae from several angles, record photo number and location in field notes.
3. Immediate public notification may be warranted. Close public beaches if bloom is located within the beach area. If bloom is in close proximity to the beach closure may be warranted.
4. Collect a sample from the bloom.
5. Perform microscopic analysis on sample. SUNY Geneseo consultants can confirm identification.
6. A microcystins Strip Test may be warranted.
7. Record actions and observations in field notes.
8. Transmit positive results: Send an email to NYSDOH Bureau of Community Health and Food Protection at [harmfulalgee@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgee@health.ny.gov), the regional field coordinator, and the NYSDEC with a report of the size and location of the algae bloom, the status of the public beaches and attach digital photos. Include a schematic of the area that shows locations of the corresponding photos.
9. A public beach must be free of a blue-green algae bloom for at least 24 hours, and testing must indicate safe levels of toxins before a beach can reopen.
10. Contact public water supply operators to inform of algae bloom and determine if the water plant is experiencing problems with raw and finished water turbidities or any other operational difficulties.
11. Public water supply samples from the raw and/or finished water supply may be warranted.
12. Communicate with Marine Patrol to determine bloom status.

Under some circumstances the Livingston County Department of Health will request access to an analytical laboratory capable of performing analysis of water samples to determine the presence and concentration of the algal toxins. Samples of drinking water and or lake water may be collected and submitted.

### **RECOVERY:**

#### Public Education

The County's Department of Health will issue appropriate press communications to report the status of a widespread incident and the level of water quality and safety.

The CLWM, the CLWC's Public Education and Outreach Committee and the CLA will provide the public with educational information about the occurrence of the blue-green algae bloom. The unified command group will compile and issue an after-action report if warranted.

After a BGA bloom has dissipated, the LCDOH will use the "Conesus Lake Watershed Emergency Notification Checklist" as a guide to make appropriate notifications to report the status of the incident. (Attachment A).

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONESUS LAKE WATERSHED  
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Location/Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Person	Need to Know?	Contacted for Initial Notification (Date/Time)		Contacted for Lift Notification (Date/Time)		Will Respond?	Comments
		Yes	No	Yes	No		
<b>*Notify First*</b> Village Mayors (V Geneseo, Avon, Livonia)							
<b>*Notify First*</b> Town Supervisors in Watershed (Geneseo, Groveland, Livonia, Conesus, Springwater, Sparta)							
Livingston Co Planning							
Conesus Lake Association (President, Chair - Water Quality Committee)							
Water/Sewer Departments (V,T Avon,V,T Geneseo, LCWSA, York)							
County Board Chair							
County Administration							
County Sheriff/911 <b>(Marine Patrol)</b>							
NYSDOH: Report:Blooms; Beach closures; reopenings Illnesses (human and pets)							
NYSDEC							
Public Notification Press Release/Blast Fax/Door-to-door							
Permitted Beaches (Long Pt, Camp Stella Maris, Southern Shores)							
Restaurants							
Healthcare Providers							
Ag and Markets							
Co. Website Health Alert/Facebook/Twitter							
Other Co. Departments							
Other Facilities							
<b>Signage Posted/Education materials provided</b>							

## Emergency Notification Contacts

**Livingston County Department of Health:**

243-7280  
 after business hours:  
 Livingston County Sheriff's Dept.: 243-7100  
 e-mail: [dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us)

**Livingston County Administrator:**

Ian Coyle: 243-7040

**Livingston County Sheriff's Department:**

243-7100  
 Marine Patrol:  
**Hyper Reach Contact: Under Sheriff Matt Bean**

**Livingston Count Planning Department:**

243-7550  
 e-mail: [aellis@co.livinston.ny.us](mailto:aellis@co.livinston.ny.us)

**Conesus Lake Association:**

Current President: Mike Saviola: C: 339-8119  
 Rusty Ehmann, Website Administrator:  
[info@conesuslake.org](mailto:info@conesuslake.org)

**Town of Conesus Supervisor:**

Brenda Donohue: 507-9972  
 Town Clerk: 346-3130

**Town of Geneseo Supervisor:**

Will Wadsworth: Cell: 764-9005  
 Town Clerk: 991-5000

**Town of Groveland Supervisor**

William Carman: C: 747-9443  
 Town Clerk: 243-1750

**Town of Livonia Supervisor**

Eric Gott, Co Board Chair: C: 746-0620  
 Town Clerk: 346-3710

**Village of Avon Mayor**

Thomas Freeman  
 Village Clerk: 226-8118

**Village of Geneseo Mayor**

Richard Hatheway  
 Village Clerk: 243-1177

**NYS Department of Health**

**Notify when: Bloom; Beach closures; reopenings  
 Illnesses (human and pets)**

Public Beaches, Patty Hall: 607-222-4801  
[Patricia.hall@health.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.hall@health.ny.gov)  
 Eric Wiegert: Report blooms to:  
[harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov)  
 After Hours Duty Officer: 866-881-2809

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**

Avon Office: Pradeep Jangbari: 226-5321  
[Pradeep.jangbari@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:Pradeep.jangbari@gw.dec.state.ny.us)  
 Albany: Scott Kishbaugh 518-402-8286  
[scott.kishba@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:scott.kishba@gw.dec.state.ny.us)  
[habinfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:habinfo@dec.ny.gov)

**Wadsworth Environmental Biology Laboratory**

**Director:** Ellen Braun-Howland: 518-473-7925  
[Ellen.braun-howland@health.ny.gov](mailto:Ellen.braun-howland@health.ny.gov)

**Permitted Beaches**

**Long Point:** Will Wadsworth: 764-9005  
 Town Clerk: 991-5000

**Camp Stella Maris:** 346-2243

**Southern Shores Campground:**

John & Angela Leverson; 346-5482  
 Cell: 721-8016

**Water Operators**
**Avon Village**

Kirk Vanderbilt Cell: 303-7064  
 John Barrett: Cell: 303-7058

**Geneseo Village**

Steve McTarnaghan: Cell: 202-9780

**Geneseo Town**

Larry Levey: Cell: 721-6870

**Groveland Town (West Lake Road) LCWSA**

Mark Kosakowski: Cell: 739-4977

**Town of York**

Rob Grant: Cell: 750-9683  
 Supervisor: Gerald Deming: Town: 243-3128

**Town of Leicester (York-Leicester system)**

Ed Hauslauer: Cell: 233-0191  
 Supervisor: Lisa Semmel: Town: 382-3231

**Livingston County Social Media Contacts:**
**Facebook and Twitter Contact:**
**Secretary to the County Administrator**

Melissa S. Savino: 243-7040  
[msavino@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:msavino@co.livingston.ny.us)  
 (Twitter Post - no more than 140 characters)

**LCDOH Website:**

Yvonne Oliver, Health Education: 243-7279  
[yoliver@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:yoliver@co.livingston.ny.us)

LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2 Murray Hill Drive  
Mt. Morris, New York 14510-1691

Jennifer Rodriguez, M.S.  
Public Health Director

Phone (585) 243-7270  
Fax (585) 243-7287  
[dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us)  
[www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm)



Mark Grovanz, P.E., Director  
Center for Environmental Health  
(585) 243-7280/(585) 335-1717 Fax: (585) 243-6793  
Dog Control: (585) 243-6740/(585) 335-1720/ Fax: (585) 243-6751

**BLUE GREEN ALGAE BLOOM  
HEALTH ADVISORY**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note to Editor:  
Use this form for:  
Initial Health Advisory**

A **blue-green algae** bloom has recently been found in the \_\_\_\_\_ area of Conesus Lake. Blooms occur when algae multiply very rapidly over a short period of time, usually in calm, warm, water. There are thousands of different algae species, however, a few of these may produce toxins. The toxins are a concern when there is a high level present in the water. The Livingston County Department of Health is monitoring for algae blooms and may collect samples of the water if the bloom is concentrated and persistent. **Blue-green algae blooms may persist in varying degrees and a various locations throughout the summer and fall seasons.** The public water supply is safe for drinking.



At this time, visual monitoring has detected the presence of **blue-green algae** in the noted area. Contact with the algae may result in some health effects such as itching, rashes, **fever, headache, upper respiratory symptoms, vomiting and diarrhea.** **These symptoms are not just caused by blue-green algae contact. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you should seek medical advise. You are advised not to drink or use the lake water for cooking and do not swim, wade, play, or come into direct contact with water that is discolored or has scums on the surface.** Pets should not be allowed to drink or to come into contact with discolored water. If contact occurs, wash with soap and clean water to remove algal material. **Always rinse after coming into contact with any surface water whether or not a blue-green algae bloom is present. Avoid contact with surface water when open cuts or wounds are present on the body.**

Questions may be directed to the Livingston County Department of Health. The Livingston County Department of Health can be reached at 243-7280 Monday thru Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm or by e-mail: [dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us). You may also reach the Department of Health after business hours or on weekends by calling the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at 243-7100 and asking for the Public Health Duty Officer.

**Please share this information with other people in the area who may not have received this notice directly.**

Twitter Notice  
(< 140 characters)

Health Advisory: A blue-green algae bloom was identified in Conesus Lake on 11/11/11. For information visit: [www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm)

139 characters

Health Advisory: Blue-green algae bloom update for Conesus Lake: For information visit: [www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm)

**Livingston County Department of Health  
Conesus Lake Watershed  
Blue Green Algae Assessment Checklist**

Date Complaint Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Complaint Investigated: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of Complaint (Address): \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size of Bloom (Small localized, Large localized, Widespread) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Current Lake Conditions</b>	<b>Check when completed</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Area(s) Affected			
Temperature of Lake			
Air Temperature			
Lake Condition (Calm, Choppy, Turbid etc.)			
Wind direction & speed (calm, moderate, windy)			
Precipitation			
Cloud Cover			
Pictures Collected			
<b>Recent Weather Conditions</b>			
<b>Forecasted Conditions</b>			

**If blue-green algae is identified, public shorelines, areas surrounding public water supply (PWS) intakes and permitted beaches must be assessed**

	<b>Blue-green Algae Identified</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Comments (Location)</b>
<b>Permitted Beaches</b>			
Long Point Park			
Camp Stella Maris			
Southern Shores Campground			
<b>Areas Surrounding PWS Intakes</b>			
Village of Avon			
Village Geneseo			
<b>Public Access</b>			
NYS Boat Launch			
DEC Fishing Access (South end)			
DEC Fishing Access (North end)			
Vitale Park			
<b>Other Areas Potentially Assessed</b>			
Cottonwood Cove Area			
Old Orchard Pt.			
McPherson Pt.			
Eagle Pt			

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**BLUE GREEN ALGAE BLOOM  
HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note to Editor:  
Use this form for:  
Health Advisory  
Update**

Blue-green algae blooms continue to be found in Conesus Lake in the area(s) of \_\_\_\_\_. Blooms were first identified on \_\_\_\_\_ in the area(s) of \_\_\_\_\_. Blue-green algae blooms may persist in varying degrees and at various locations throughout the summer and fall seasons.

**Blooms occur when algae multiply very rapidly over a short period of time, usually in calm, warm, water. There are thousands of different algae species, however, a few of these may produce toxins. When the algae cells die, the toxins they contain may be released into the water. The toxins are only a concern when there is a high level present in the water. The Livingston County Department of Health is monitoring for algae blooms and may collect samples of the water if the bloom is concentrated and persistent.**



**At this time, visual monitoring has detected the presence of blue-green algae in the noted area. Contact with the algae may result in some health effects such as itching, rashes, fever, headache, upper respiratory symptoms, vomiting and diarrhea. These symptoms are not just caused by blue-green algae contact. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you should seek medical advice. You are advised not to drink or use the lake water for cooking and do not swim, wade, play, or come into direct contact with the algae in the water. If contact occurs, wash with soap and clean water to remove algal material. Always rinse after coming into contact with any surface water whether or not a blue-green algae bloom is present. Avoid contact with surface water when open cuts or wounds are present on the body. Pets should not be allowed to drink or to come into contact with visibly green colored water.**

**It is safe to participate in recreational activities such as swimming and water-skiing in areas of Conesus Lake that do not have visible Blue-Green Algae present. The public water supply is safe for drinking.**

Questions may be directed to the Livingston County Department of Health. The Livingston County Department of Health can be reached at 243-7280 Monday thru Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm or by e-mail: [dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us). You may also reach the Department of Health after business hours or on weekends by calling the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at 243-7100 and asking for the Public Health Duty Officer.

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Dog Control: (585) 243-6740/(585) 335-1720/ Fax: (585) 243-6751

**BLUE GREEN ALGAE BLOOM  
HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Note to Editor:  
Use this form for:  
Health Advisory  
Update – No Blooms  
Reported/Identified**

The Livingston County Department of Health is currently not receiving reports or identifying Blue-green algae blooms in Conesus Lake. Blooms were first identified on \_\_\_\_\_ in the area(s) of \_\_\_\_\_. Blue-green algae blooms may reappear in varying degrees and at various locations throughout the summer and fall seasons.

**Blooms occur when algae multiply very rapidly over a short period of time, usually in calm, warm, water. There are thousands of different algae species, however, a few of these may produce toxins. When the algae cells die, the toxins they contain may be released into the water. The toxins are only a concern when there is a high level present in the water. The Livingston County Department of Health is monitoring for algae blooms and may collect samples of the water if the bloom is concentrated and persistent.**



**At this time, visual monitoring has detected the presence of blue-green algae in the noted area. Contact with the algae may result in some health effects such as itching, rashes, fever, headache, upper respiratory symptoms, vomiting and diarrhea. These symptoms are not just caused by blue-green algae contact. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you should seek medical advise. You are advised not to drink or use the lake water for cooking and do not swim, wade, play, or come into direct contact with the algae in the water. If contact occurs, wash with soap and clean water to remove algal material. Always rinse after coming into contact with any surface water whether or not a blue-green algae bloom is present. Avoid contact with surface water when open cuts or wounds are present on the body. Pets should not be allowed to drink or to come into contact with visibly green colored water.**

**It is safe to participate in recreational activities such as swimming and water-skiing in areas of Conesus Lake that do not have visible Blue-Green Algae present. The public water supply is safe for drinking.**

Questions may be directed to the Livingston County Department of Health. The Livingston County Department of Health can be reached at 243-7280 Monday thru Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm or by e-mail: [dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us). You may also reach the Department of Health after business hours or on weekends by calling the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at 243-7100 and asking for the Public Health Duty Officer.

**Please share this information with other people in the area who may not have received this notice directly.**