



Date: July 26th, 2017
Location: Russian River

**Public Information Update:
Blue-Green Algae Toxins Detected
DHS to Post Signs at Public Beaches**

Update

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has been working with partners to monitor the status of the Russian River throughout this summer. On July 17th, changes in conditions prompted DHS to begin weekly water testing for blue-green algae toxins.

On Wednesday, July 26th, DHS received test results indicating that a low-level of blue-green algae toxins are present in certain areas of the river. In accordance with state guidance, the level of toxin present is enough to trigger the posting of “Caution” signs in both English and Spanish at all major beaches along the River.

Test results will be available on DHS’ website: <http://www.sonoma-county.org/health/services/bluegreen.asp>.

Weekly laboratory testing will continue until two successive weeks of negative test results. River conditions will be monitored until they no longer support the rapid growth of blue-green algae.

“Caution” is the lowest of three levels of state recommended advisory signage (“Caution” ”Warning” and “Danger”). **There are currently no restrictions for recreational use of the Russian River. However, the public should be advised that potentially harmful algae may be present. Care should be taken to keep children and pets away from algae, and prevent them from drinking river water.**

DHS recommends the following:

- Do not drink river water. Do not cook or wash dishes with river water.
- Keep children away from algae in the water, on the shore and in isolated side pools.
- Wash yourself and your family, including any pets, with clean water after river play.
- Keep dogs away from algae in the river, on the shoreline and in isolated side pools. Dogs like to eat things and are known to preferentially seek out blue-green algae. Be aware of this in deciding how you supervise your dog.
- Bring fresh water for your dog and do not let them drink river water.
- If you have concerns regarding your family or pet's health, contact your healthcare provider or veterinarian.
- For more information regarding the status of the Russian River, call the recorded beach hotline at (707) 565-6552 or visit DHS’ website: <http://www.sonoma-county.org/health/services/bluegreen.asp>