

Online portal offers information on water bodies with harmful algal blooms throughout California

Public is advised to exercise caution when visiting waterways Labor Day weekend

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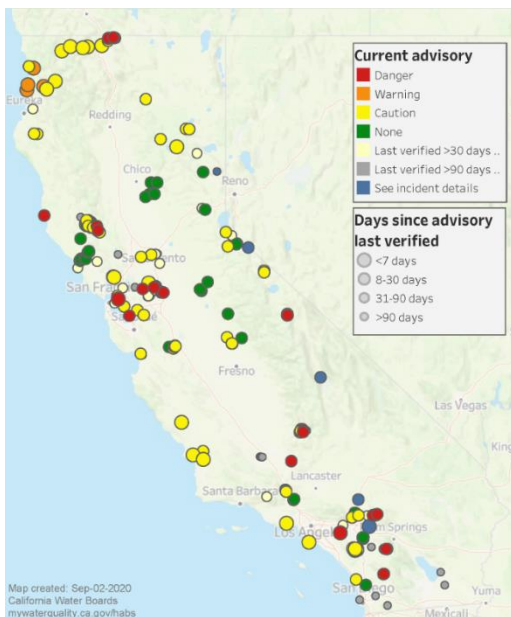
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WHAT: State officials have updated an online interactive map with information about waterways and waterbodies that have advisories due to harmful algal blooms.

WHY: The Water Boards, aided by partner organizations, gathered water samples at many popular lakes and streams with a history of harmful algal blooms throughout California as part of an ongoing collaborative effort to share information with the public.

The Water Boards have ramped up testing for the harmful blooms in advance of the Labor Day weekend and posted information about water bodies that have advisories on a [harmful algal bloom portal](#). The portal offers information on which tested waterways offer safe recreation options and which ones require caution.



WHERE: The results of targeted sampling for more than 80 lakes and rivers are summarized in an [interactive map](#) showing which sites were tested at each waterbody. The map indicates the specific tiered recreational health advisory level – “Caution,” “Warning” or “Danger” - based on cyanotoxin testing results and/or visual indicators confirming presence of a harmful algal bloom. Approximately 75% of the lakes and rivers are associated with a recommended advisory. More information can be accessed at a [frequently asked questions page](#) on the portal.

Harmful algal blooms can be identified, typically, by their green, streaky appearance in water, but sometimes can appear as other colors. The blooms contain cyanotoxins that can trigger health concerns for

people, including irritation to the respiratory system, skin, eye, and throat discomfort, vomiting, and gastrointestinal distress. Health concerns in animals, particularly dogs, includes vomiting, difficulty breathing, seizures, and sometimes death. Dogs and children are particularly vulnerable because they are more likely to swallow water when swimming or playing

This is the fourth consecutive year of heightened testing prior to Labor Day. The Water Boards, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, , and California Department of Public Health, along with water managers and county and state health officials, are coordinating efforts to investigate reported cases of health impacts linked to freshwater algal blooms.

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