Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative Results 6/29/2026

The WCMC is a group of volunteer community scientists that is developing ways to assess risk of cyanotoxin exposure using fast and low-cost methods. These results are based on methods that are not certified by the Commonwealth of MA but are presented as additional information so that lake users can make informed choices about their contact.

We encourage people to use their best judgement, and "If in doubt, stay out!"

If you or your pet has been exposed to water that may contain cyanotoxins, rinse with tap water immediately. Do not let animals lick their fur. If your pet has ingested scums or water containing cyanobacteria, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.
CDC - Cyanobacteria Blooms and Your Health

CDC – Preventing Pet and livestock Illnesses Caused by Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms

Interpreting WCMC Results

The WCMC does not measure cyanotoxins, instead the group uses four parameters to estimate the **risk of cyanotoxin exposure**. These include **phycocyanin concentration**, **particle concentration**, **cyanobacteria density**, and the **cyanobacteria observed**. Each of the results are ranked and given a color to identify severity. The overall risk of exposure at each lake is estimated by reviewing all four parameters together. Results listed as ND (Not Detected) indicate that the result was less than the level that equipment can reliably detect.

Table 1. Legend for interpreting results

Overall Risk Rating	Phycocyanin Concentration (RFU)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Relative Cyanobacteria Density
Very Low	ND - 15 - Very Low	0-1000 - Very Low	Very Low
Low	15-20 - Low	1000-5000 - Low	Low
Elevated	20-50 – Elevated	5000-10000 - Elevated	Elevated
High	>50 - High	>10000 - High	High

Table 2. Results from samples collected on 6/29/2026. Phycocyanin results not reported due to instrument errors.

Waterbody	Overall Risk Rating	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Relative Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Genera Observed
Buffumville Lake	Low	826 – Very low	Low	Microcystis Debris
Coes Reservoir	Elevated	1533 - Low	Elevated	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia, Aphanizomenon
Cooks Pond	Low	2179 - Low	Low	Dolichospermum
Crystal Pond	Very low	812 – Very low	Very Low	None
East Lake Waushacum	Very low	226 – Very low	Very Low	None
Farm Pond	Low	132 – Very low	Low	Microcystis Debris
Green Hill Park Pond	Low	1110 - Low	Low	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris
Indian Lake Clason Beach	Elevated	1432 - Low	high	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Woronichinia, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris
Indian Lake Morgan Park	Elevated	2061 - Low	high	Microcystis, Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Woronichinia, Microcystis Debris

Waterbody	Overall Risk Rating	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Relative Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Genera Observed
Jordan Pond	Low	184 – Very Low	Low	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum
Lake Lashaway	Low	881 – Very Low	Low	Dolichospermum
Little Indian Lake	Elevated	8964 - Elevated	Elevated	Planktolyngbya, Aphanizomenon
Manchaug Pond	Low	593 – Very Low	Low	Microcystis Debris
Mossy Pond	Very low	320 – Very Low	Very Low	None
Newton Pond	Very low	974 – Very Low	Very Low	Microcystis Debris, Dolichospermum
Patch Reservoir	Elevated	2900 - Low	High	Dolichospermum
Salisbury Pond	Low	1869 - Low	Low	Microcystis, Dolichospermum, Woronichinia

Table 3. Previous Results for Lakes Not Tested this Period

Waterbody	Overall Risk Rating	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Date Last Sampled
Burncoat Pond	Low	31 - Elevated	41323 - High	Very Low	6/13/2026
EcoTarium Pond	Very Low	ND – Very Low	224 – Very Low	Very Low	6/13/2026
Flint Pond	Very Low	ND – Very Low	819 – Very Low	Very Low	6/13/2026
Lake Quinsigamond - Lake Park	Low	ND – Very Low	378 – Very Low	Low	6/13/2026
Leesville Pond	Very Low	ND – Very Low	1219 - Low	Very Low	6/13/2026
Stevens Pond	Low	ND – Very Low	678 – Very Low	Low	5/16/2026

Data Definitions

Risk of Exposure: Overall risk of exposure to cyanotoxins in the waterbody based on a holistic interpretation of the data collected.

Phycocyanin: Cyanobacteria-specific pigment concentration in the water. The more phycocyanin there is in the water, the more cyanobacteria are present. However, because different kinds of cyanobacteria produce different quantities of phycocyanin, the risk of toxin production is different for the same concentration of phycocyanin when there are different cyanobacteria present.

Particle Concentration: Particles include living and non-living materials and can be a proxy for overall turbidity of the water. High concentrations of particles in the water can be indicative of cyanobacteria blooms but can also be the result of other factors such as non-

living debris and sediment. The phycocyanin concentrations and cyanobacteria density help to interpret if particles are due to cyanobacteria or other sources.

Relative Cyanobacteria Density: The ratio of cyanobacteria to other organisms in the sample. Higher densities can indicate elevated risk of exposure to cyanotoxins. Density results do not consider concentration, but in general, systems dominated by cyanobacteria are at higher risk for producing toxins.

Cyanobacteria Observed: Genera of cyanobacteria identified in the sample. Because different cyanobacteria have different levels of phycocyanin, observed cyanobacteria help determine the threshold of phycocyanin that is considered risky.

ND: ND (Not Detected) indicates that the result was less than the level that laboratory equipment can reliably detect.