

## WCMC Results September 12, 2022

Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Bell Pond	ND	544	none	
Coes Reservoir	27	3924	some	<i>Dolichospermum, Woronichinia, Aphanizomenon</i>
Cooks Pond	13	4004	low	<i>Aphanizomenon</i>
Dark Brook Reservoir	ND	1279	low	<i>Dolichospermum</i>
East Lake Waushacum	9	2093	some	<i>Dolichospermum, Microcystis debris</i>
Ecotarium Pond	59	12136	low	<i>Aphanizomenon</i>
Elm Park Pond	172	45105	low	<i>Microcystis debris</i>
Farm Pond	17	2066	some	<i>Microcystis debris, Dolichospermum</i>
Flint Pond	19	9228	some	<i>Microcystis, Aphanizomenon, Woronichinia</i>
Green Hill Park Pond	23	5532	low	<i>Dolichospermum, Microcystis debris</i>
Manchaug Pond	9	1146	low	<i>Dolichospermum</i>
Newton Pond	ND	1898	low	<i>Microcystis debris</i>
Patch Reservoir	50	13500	high	<i>Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis debris</i>
Salisbury Pond	29	14900	none	
Steven's Pond	11	1516	low	<i>Microcystis, Aphanizomenon</i>

  

Risk of Exposure	Phycocyanin ug/l	Particles/ml	Comparative density of cyanobacteria
Almost none	0-15	0-1000	none
Low	15-20	1000-5000	low
Elevated	20-50	5000-10000	some
Blooming	>50	>10000	high



See reverse side for details

Results are based on methods that are not certified by the Commonwealth of MA but are presented as recommendations 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 the areas with tap water immediately. If your pet has ingested scums or water containing cyanobacteria, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

[Learn more at WorcesterMA.gov/WCMC](http://WorcesterMA.gov/WCMC)

## WCMC Results September 24, 2022

Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Bell Pond	ND	low	<i>Dolichospermum</i>
Burncoat Pond	177	NA	NA
Coes Reservoir	87	high	<i>Dolichospermum, Aphanizomenon, Woronichinia</i>
Cooks Pond	ND	low	<i>Microcystis debris, Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum</i>
East Lake Waushacum	ND	some	<i>Aphanizomenon, Woronichinia, Microcystis/Microcystis debris</i>
Elm Park Pond	314	high	<i>Microcystis debris</i>
Farm Pond	30	none	
Green Hill Park Pond	33	high	<i>Dolichospermum, Microcystis debris, Aphanizomenon</i>
Little Indian Lake	113	high	<i>Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Microcystis debris, Aphanizomenon</i>
Indian Lake	19	some	<i>Microcystis, Microcystis debris, Dolichospermum</i>
Jordan Pond	12	none	
Kiver Pond	61	none	
Lake Quinsigamond	17	some	<i>Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Woronichinia</i>
Leesville Pond	ND	none	
Manchaug Pond	ND	low	<i>Microcystis, Microcystis debris</i>
Newton Pond	13	some	<i>Microcystis debris</i>
Patch Pond	22	none	
Salisbury Pond	42	none	

Risk of Exposure	Phycocyanin ug/l	Comparative density of cyanobacteria
Almost none	0-15	none
Low	15-20	low
Elevated	20-50	some
Blooming	>50	high



See reverse side for details

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# Interpreting WCMC Results

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 and see these CDC guidelines:

[Cyanobacterial Blooms: Information for Veterinarians | Harmful Algal Blooms | CDC.](#)

The WCMC is a group of volunteer community scientists that is developing ways to assess risk to 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 recommendations 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!”**

The WCMC does not measure cyanotoxins, instead the group uses four parameters to determine 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 determined by reviewing all four parameters together.

Risk of Exposure	Phycocyanin ug/l	Particles/ml	Comparative density of cyanobacteria
Almost none	0-15	0-1000	none
Low	15-20	1000-5000	low
Elevated	20-50	5000-10000	some
Blooming	>50	>10000	high

*ND = Below detection limits*

**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.

**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.