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# Cowlitz County Health Department

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## Media Release

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Longview, WA 98632

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### Level 1 Signs Will Remain at Silver Lake

Last week, Cowlitz County's Health Department posted Level 1 cautionary signs around Silver Lake. An algae bloom was discovered while routinely monitoring the lake. Algae blooms are bright, light green and scummy, or give the water an overall green pea soup color. The Level 1 cautionary signs inform the public that "toxic algae may be present".

The results of the algae test for toxins, Microcystin and Anatoxin-a, conclude that the presence of toxins are well below the standards considered as a risk to pets and humans. Dr. Jennifer Vines, Cowlitz County's Deputy Health Director, recommends that the Level 1 signs remain as long as there is any visible bloom. The Health Department will retest if algae blooms suddenly increase.

Some species of algae produce toxins that can be harmful to humans and pets if they swallow or come into contact with the water. The lake is not closed to recreational activities, but the public is strongly encouraged to avoid contact with the water where algae are visibly present. Fish are safe to eat as long as the digestive organs are removed

More information on algae can be found at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/algae>.

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