



Community Health Advisory

August 21, 2025



Alert Categories



Community Health Alert

Conveys the highest level of importance;
warrants immediate action or attention.



Community Health Advisory

Provides important information for a
specific incident or situation; **may not require
immediate action.**



Community Health Update

Provides updated information regarding
an incident or situation; **no immediate
action necessary.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Confirmed harmful algal bloom in the Snake River

Questions regarding this information may be directed to:

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Summary

Whitman County Public Health has issued a Health Advisory for the presence of a harmful algal bloom in the Snake River. This is in response to a water sample taken near Nisqually John Landing on 8/18/2025. Results were received on 8/21/2025 and indicate that the water sample tested positive for microcystins, a type of liver toxin. The harmful algal bloom is located intermittently in the stretch of river between Nisqually John Landing and Little Goose Dam.

Residents are reminded that blooms occurring in river systems may migrate as they follow the river currents. Areas of water with visible scum on the surface of the water should be avoided. Sample results will be updated weekly or bi-weekly at www.whitmancountypublichealth.org/environmental-health/hazards-and-toxics/algal-blooms throughout the duration of the bloom.

About Toxic Algae

Harmful algae, also known as toxic algae or blue-green algae, is dangerous to humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife. Current sample results show the presence of microcystins, a type of liver toxin. Harmful algal blooms may occur year-round but are more frequent in late summer and early fall months. Warm water and air temperatures, sunny weather, still water conditions, and high levels of nutrients contribute to harmful algal blooms. Blooms appear as a scum on the water surface, often compared to the look of spilled paint. Blooms are most often green or blue but may also be brown or pink.



Pictured: A harmful algal bloom seen at Nisqually John Landing on 8/18/2025.

Requested Actions

Residents and visitors are advised to take the following precautions:

- Do not drink, swim, wade, use personal watercraft, water ski, or boat in waters where there is a visible bloom.
- Wash your skin and clothing with soap and water if you have contact with algae or discolored or smelly water.
- Keep pets away from the area. Waters where there are harmful algal blooms are not safe for animals. Pets and livestock should have a different source of water when algae blooms are present.
- Do not cook or clean dishes with water contaminated by algae blooms. Boiling the water will not eliminate the toxins.
- Do not eat shellfish in waters with algae blooms.

If you or your pet feel sick after being in water, contact your doctor or veterinarian.

Resources



For more information on harmful algae, visit the following resources:

- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Washington State Toxic Algae](#)