



PRESS RELEASE

Community Health Update

January 21st, 2026



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Advisory on the Snake River lifted

Alert Categories

 Community Health Alert <small>Warrants immediate action & attention.</small>	 Community Health Advisory <small>May not require immediate action.</small>	 Community Health Update <small>No immediate action necessary.</small>	 Community Health News <small>No immediate action necessary.</small>
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Current Situation

Whitman County Public Health has lifted the Health Advisory for toxic algae on the Snake River stretch from Nisqually John Landing to Little Goose Dam. This is in response to two consecutive water samples taken one week apart that tested below the state advisory level for toxins. This follows the harmful algal bloom management protocol set forth by the

Washington Department of Health.

A Health Advisory was issued on August 21, 2025 after a water sample taken from the Snake River was determined to contain microcystins, a type of toxic algae known to produce potent liver toxins. Testing was performed routinely throughout the summer and fall, and water samples continued to contain high levels of microcystins until early October.

Questions or Concerns?

We're here to help.

- For more information about harmful algal blooms and the 2025 Snake River sampling season, please contact Whitman County Public Health or visit our website at [Whitman County | Algal Blooms](#).
- Questions regarding this information may be directed to Maddy Lucas | Environmental Health Specialist | MaddyLucas@whitmancounty.gov

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