

PRESS RELEASE

Health Update

October 28th, 2024



Whitman County
Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Advisory on the Snake River lifted

Questions regarding this information may be directed to Whitman County Public Health at one of the following office locations:

Colfax Office

(509) 397-6280

Pullman Office

(509) 332-6752

Alert Categories



Health Alert

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



Health Advisory

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



Health Update

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

Summary

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 for the Snake River on August 16, 2024 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.

Residents and visitors are still advised to avoid areas of water with active blooms. Affected areas will often have a visible green scum on the surface of the water that appears like spilled paint. Suspected blooms can be reported to the

Washington State Department of Ecology at the following link: <https://www.nwtoxicalgae.org/ReportBloom.aspx>.

For more information about harmful algal blooms and the 2024 Snake River sampling season, please contact Whitman County Public Health or visit our website at WhitmanCountyPublicHealth.org/environmental-health/hazards-and-toxins/algal-blooms.