A harmful algal bloom (HAB) is an overgrowth of algae in a water body that can affect water quality and aquatic life. Some HABs produced by bacteria can create toxins that may also harm people, animals, and the local environment.

**HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS**

**LOOK OUT FOR**

**HOW TO IDENTIFY A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM**

Algal blooms can make the water appear green, brown, gold, or red. They often produce scum, mats, foams, or paint-like streaks in the water or clumps on the shore. However, only professional water testing can confirm if HABs and toxins are present. State and local governments often test water for bacteria or toxins to protect water quality as part of their water quality standards program.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!**

STAY AWAY FROM THE WATER WHEN YOU SUSPECT A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM IS PRESENT.

**ROUTES & SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE TO HABs**

SYMPTOMS CAN VARY DEPENDING ON HOW THE PERSON OR ANIMAL WAS EXPOSED, AND WHETHER THE HAB IS IN SALT OR FRESH WATER.

**WHO CAN GET SICK FROM A HAB?**

- Adults and children
- Household pets
- Livestock
- Fish and shellfish

**WHAT TO DO IF EXPOSED TO A HAB**

- Shower immediately
- Contact your poison control center for advice

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT POSSIBLE HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS: (XXX) XXX-XXXX \( \text{xxxxxxxxxxx.html} \)