



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

NMED lifts algae bloom advisories at five New Mexico lakes

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department is lifting harmful algae bloom advisories that were issued in September and October for Eagle Nest, Maloya, Lower Charette, Snow, and Hopewell lakes in Colfax, Mora, Catron, and Rio Arriba counties following updated monitoring data showing improved conditions.

Harmful algae blooms (HABs) occur when certain algae rapidly grow in surface waters, creating potential health risks for people and animals. These blooms can appear blue, bright green, brown, or red and may look like scum or floating grass clippings. Some HABs can produce toxins that are dangerous to both humans and animals.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) still recommends visitors do not drink untreated surface water, monitor pets and children, and rinse fish with clean water prior to cooking thoroughly.

NMED and its partners monitor algae conditions at select lakes and reservoirs from July through November, when harmful algae blooms are most likely to occur. The department advises the public to avoid water that smells foul or appears scummy — resembling floating grass clippings, thick paint, or shades of pea-green, blue-green, or brownish red. When in doubt, the public is urged to stay out of the water.

If you suspect an algae-related illness, call the New Mexico Poison Information Center at (800) 222-1222. For illness in animals, call (888) 4426-4435 or the Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661.

More information about HABs can be found on [NMED's HABs Webpage](#), in New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) HABs [Human Health](#) and [Animal Health](#) factsheets, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's [Fishing During HABs](#) website.

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