

Update on Safety of Swimming at Joe's Pond as of 11:00 7/19/2019

To date, there have not been any reports of cyanobacteria (blue green algae) blooms at the Joe's Pond town owned swim beach. Kellie Merrell has tested the beach weekly from Memorial Day to Labor Day for *E. coli* for the years 2005-2010 and 2013 to the present on behalf of the town of Danville. She has never observed cyanobacteria blooms present at the beach. Former Town Health Officer, Eric Bach, visited the beach twice a day for a couple of years specifically to look for cyanobacteria blooms and never observed one. This week, Kellie Merrell and the Town's Health Officer both visited the beach and saw no evidence of a blue green algae bloom. However, that does not mean that the beach cannot experience a cyanobacteria bloom in the future.

Fortunately, the town has a newly trained cyanobacteria monitoring volunteer, Pam Hebert, who has volunteered to make regular observations at the Town Beach and report them to the

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/tracking/cyanobacteria-tracker> website. The public is encouraged to visit this website for updates on whether cyanobacteria has been observed at the beach. If a bloom considered unsafe for swimming is observed, the town Health Officer, Jenny Rafuse will be notified, and the beach will be closed and remain closed until the bloom has ended.

Cyanobacteria varies greatly in both space and time. It is possible for a bloom to be observed in some parts of Joe's Pond but not others. Hence, it is important for lake users to become familiar with what Cyanobacteria looks like and keep themselves, children and dogs out of water they suspect may contain an algae bloom. The following resources are recommended:

https://www.danvillevermont.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Cyanobacteria-Resources-for-Vermonters_June-2019.pdf

http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016/12/ENV_RW_CyanobacteriaGuidance.pdf