

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2024

Media Contact: Brookie Crawford, brookie.crawford@vdh.virginia.gov**Lake Anna Harmful Algae Bloom Advisory Lifted***Virginia Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force Suspends Response Sampling for 2024 Season*

RICHMOND, Va. – Effective immediately, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is lifting the [harmful algae bloom](#) (HAB) advisory for Lake Anna due to the end of the recreational season.

The [Upper North Anna Branches](#) has experienced a HAB since June. In July, the advisory was extended to include the Middle North Anna Branch and the [Upper and Middle Pamunkey Branches](#) and [Terry's Run](#).

Results of samples collected September 18 and October 15 for Upper and Middle Pamunkey Branch indicated potentially toxic cyanobacteria were at acceptable levels allowing the advisory to be lifted.

To lift advisories, VDH needs two acceptable samples collected at least 10 days apart. While the October 15 sample results from the Upper and Middle Pamunkey branches and Terry's Run were at acceptable levels, the September 18 sample results were at unsafe levels of [cyanobacteria](#). No additional sampling is planned.

The [Virginia Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force](#) suspends response sampling and any [active HAB advisories](#) at the end of October each year when the recreational (swimming) season concludes and temperatures begin cooling in natural waters.

Algae blooms, which are still present in November in areas of a waterbody, may persist into late fall and possibly winter months. The public should avoid discolored water or scums that are green or bluish-green because they are more likely to contain toxins.

The Virginia Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force, which includes the VDH, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Old Dominion University Phytoplankton Laboratory, will resume response efforts in May 2025, weather permitting.

For more information visit www.SwimHealthyVA.com.

#