



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **First Algae Bloom Test Results Are In**

First test results from an algae bloom, reported at Hammond Pond in the Rock Island area, have come back at levels below those that would cause concern. The sample is positive for microcystin at 2 ug/L, while the State standard for concern is 6 ug/L. Eventually, the toxins break down in the water and are destroyed naturally.

### **Algae Bloom Precautions**

If you observe a suspected algae bloom it is best to assume it is toxic and keep pets and people away from the water. In their toxic form, blue-green algae can cause illness in humans, pets, waterfowl, and other animals that come in contact with the algae. Toxic blooms can kill livestock and pets that drink the water.

Signs of a toxic bloom may include:

- Dead fish, waterfowl, or other animals

- Sudden, unexplained sickness or death of a cat or dog, (especially if it has algae on its mouth, legs, or feet)

- Skin rashes on humans after being in the water

Shoreline users and boaters should avoid contact with water whenever surface concentrations of algae are evident or when the water has an obvious green to blue-green appearance.