

Dear Community Member:

Polk County Land and Water Resources and Public Health Departments have conducted water quality testing the has indicated the presence of *Planktothrix rubescens* at Loveless Lake.

Planktothrix rubescens (blue-green algae) contains a red pigment that gives it a reddish-purple appearance. *Planktothrix rubescens* is buoyant, so it floats near the water's surface. The floating *Planktothrix rubescens* has broken down into small pieces by the waves on Loveless Lake. These small pieces may not be visible in the surface water, but testing has confirmed their presence. *Planktothrix rubescens* naturally produces a toxic substance that can cause illness or health effects in human or animals through direct contact, ingestion, or inhalation.

Testing has confirmed that the detected **Planktothrix rubescens algae is toxic**. Toxin has been detected in the lake water below the recreational swimming water action level. Daily lake water and algae toxicity is not known. Polk County is not able to provide daily lake water toxin levels at Loveless Lake.

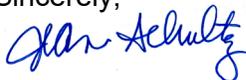
To protect yourself, family, or pets from illness:

- Do not touch mats of algae, scum layers, foam or other visible blooms of blue-green algae.
- Do not swim in areas where water is discolored or where you see foam, scum, or mats of algae on the water's surface.
- Do not eat fish organs, only fish filets. Rinse filets well with clean water before cooking or freezing. Wash your hands or shower off with soap and water after catching and cleaning fish.
- Do not let dogs drink or swim in lake water during an algal bloom.
- Do not let dogs eat algal scum or lick it off their fur.
- Always wash your hands or shower off with soap and water after participating in recreational water activities.
- Always wash pets with clean water immediately if he/she swims or wades in water during algal blooms.
- Do not use lake water for irrigation on lawns. The lake water contains small pieces of the algae. Children and pets can encounter the algae when playing in lawns after irrigation.

At this time, no reports of illness related to activities within the lake have been reported. Informational signs notifying the public are posted at Loveless Lake. Polk County will work with State agencies to determine the next steps at Loveless Lakes.

For more information, visit <http://www.polkcountyhealthdept.org>.

Sincerely,



Jean Schultz
Public Health Director/Health Officer