

City of Newton



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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Public Health
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Crystal Lake Update

August 8, 2019

Swimming at Crystal Lake was closed yesterday at least for a week due to heightened levels of algae in the water. No one –humans or pets – should have contact with the water or any algae that is on the shore. This includes swimming, boating, wading, and fishing. Pets should not enter the water or drink from it.

Results just came back from Crystal Lake water samples collected on Tuesday and tested by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The first results show algae in the water at the beach in the swimming area are not at dangerous levels.

However, **Crystal Lake remains closed to swimming until a second water sample is tested and returns within [guideline levels established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#).**

More specifically, laboratory analysis of the water sample collected on Tuesday, August 6 showed a cyanobacteria level of 39,000 cells/ml, below the [MDPH guideline level](#) of 70,000 cells/ml. The microcystin toxin level was <1 ppb, which is below the recommended level of 14 ppb.

Water testing was conducted because an algae bloom was observed at the lake beginning August 5.

Per guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the lake is closed to swimming until two water samples collected one week apart indicate cyanobacteria levels below guidance limits.

The next water sample will be collected by MDPH on or around Tuesday, August 13. Results are expected by Friday, August 16.

If the second water sample is also below guidance limits, the City expects to reopen the lake to swimming. If the second water sample exceeds the guidance limits, the lake will remain closed to swimming for the remainder of the season due to the originally scheduled closure date of Sunday, August 18.

Crystal Lake Park and Bath House are open normal hours and will remain open through August 18 for visitors to picnic, play and enjoy the lake from the shore.

For more information, read below for earlier advisories.

When new information is available, we will update this website.

For questions, please contact Newton Health and Human Services 617-796-1420.

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Public Health Advisory: Crystal Lake

8/7/2019

Swimming at Crystal Lake is closed at least for a week due to heightened levels of algae in the water. No one – humans or pets – should have contact with the water.

- Do not swim in Crystal Lake
- Do not swallow water from Crystal Lake
- Keep animals away from Crystal Lake
- If accidental water contact occurs, rinse off immediately

With advice from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Commissioner of Health and Human Services determined that all of Crystal Lake must be closed at this time because of potential health risks. MDPH advised Newton to close Crystal Lake while the water tests are being conducted and results are pending. More information should be available late next week, and we will determine if the lake can reopen for swimming.

Blue-green algae can form harmful blooms in bodies of water that may produce toxins and could make pets and people sick if they swallow the water, have direct skin contact, or inhale water droplets.

Populations such as nursing mothers and pregnant women, those with pre-existing liver conditions, those receiving dialysis treatment, the elderly, and other sensitive populations may be at higher risk of experiencing adverse health effects.

Seek medical attention if you or your pet experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or fever after swimming in Crystal Lake.

The Crystal Lake Park and Bath House will stay open normal hours for visitors to picnic, play and enjoy the lake from the shore.

Crystal Lake swim lessons will be credited on a pro-rated basis. For questions contact Parks and Recreation staff at Crystal Lake at 617-552-7124.

We will provide updates when we have more information at www.newtonma.gov or call the Newton Health and Human Services Department at 617-796-1420.