



March 23, 2021

LCRA continues to strongly recommend that people not let their dogs play near or ingest algae in any of the Highland Lakes.

On Wednesday, March 23, LCRA received test results from blue-green algae samples taken from five Highland Lakes – lakes Buchanan, Inks, LBJ, Marble Falls and Travis – on March 16 and 17.

The tests detected cyanotoxins, which are emitted by blue-green algae and can be fatal to dogs, in algae samples from Inks Lake, Lake Marble Falls and Lake Travis.

“The key here is not to let your guard down,” said John Hofmann, LCRA executive vice president of Water. “We encourage people in the strongest terms possible not to let dogs play near algae in the lakes. Our tests show what was present at the specific site we tested on the day we took the samples, but conditions can change.

“Blue green algae are common in Texas lakes, and it is not easy to predict if or when algae will start producing toxins,” Hofmann said. “Out of an abundance of caution – whether our tests detected toxic algae in the area or not – we encourage people to avoid contact with algae in the lakes, and to especially make sure dogs don’t play in or eat it.”

Low concentrations of cyanotoxin were detected in algae taken from the shoreline near the Inks Lake State Park boat ramp in Inks Lake and at the Cottonwood Shores boat ramp in Lake Marble Falls. The amount detected was significantly lower than what was detected downstream at Hudson Bend in Lake Travis. The tests did not detect cyanotoxins in the water at Inks Lake or Lake Marble Falls.

Tests also detected cyanotoxins in algae and water at Travis Landing, an area near Hudson Bend on Lake Travis where cyanotoxins (dihydroanatoxin-a and anatoxin-a) have been detected in two previous tests. The March 16-17 tests detected cyanotoxins in the area at lower levels than detected in previous tests.

Though blue-green algae are present in each of the lakes, testing did not detect cyanotoxins in algae or water at monitoring sites in Lake Buchanan or Lake LBJ.

Earlier tests in March detected cyanotoxins at 10 sites at the lower end of Lake Travis, and in the water at three of those sites.

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