



March 12, 2021

Late this afternoon (Friday, March 12), LCRA received test results from water and blue-green algae samples from 10 locations on Lake Travis. The tests revealed the presence of cyanotoxins in algae from each of the 10 sites, and the presence of small amounts of cyanotoxins in water samples taken from three sites. Cyanotoxins can be harmful to dogs and other animals when ingested.

LCRA strongly urges pet owners not to allow their dogs to play in or eat algae in any of the Highland Lakes.

The algae samples, which were collected on March 3, ranged from the size of a pea to the size of a dinner plate. Samples collected from Lake Travis included floating algae in cove areas, algae on the bottom of the lake in shallow areas and decaying algae from solid material along the shoreline. The algae were typically brown or dark green.

“We can’t stress this enough – out of an abundance of caution, do not let your dogs touch or ingest algae from the lakes,” said John Hofmann, LCRA executive vice president of Water. “We know even a little toxicity from blue-green algae can be harmful or even fatal to dogs.”

The test results showed the presence of dihydroanatoxin-a, a type of cyanotoxin, at these 10 areas: Arkansas Bend Park, Bob Wentz Park, Comanche Point, Cypress Creek Park, Lakeway City Park, Mansfield Dam Park, Pace Bend Park, Sandy Creek Park, Tom Hughes Park and Travis Landing. The results showed small amounts of the same cyanotoxin in lake water near Bob Wentz, Sandy Creek and Arkansas Bend.

LCRA has not received any additional reports of dogs becoming ill after swimming in Lake Travis in the last two weeks. We earlier received reports of two dogs dying and five others becoming ill after swimming in the Travis Landing neighborhood near Hudson Bend or the Comanche Point area on the other side of the lake.

LCRA will take additional water and algae samples from other parts of Lake Travis and other Highland Lakes next week. We will share those results as soon as we get them.