

WATER CONTACT ADVISORY

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Blooms of algae, called *Microcystis aeruginosa*, have been observed in Lake Lariat. These blooms appear as a greenish substance floating on the water's surface, similar to the picture below:



WHERE A BLOOM IS VISABLE:

DO NOT SWIM IN THE WATER.

DO NOT DRINK, SWALLOW, OR INHALE THE WATER.

KEEP PETS AWAY FROM THE WATER.

IF WATER CONTACT OCCURS, WASH OFF WITH FRESH WATER.

The following have been reported where blue-green algae blooms are present in recreational waters:

Contact with water may cause either irritation or allergic reactions of skin.

Swallowing water may cause stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or fever.

Inhalation of water droplets may cause respiratory symptoms.

Very young children, by accidentally swallowing water, may be at higher risk.

Pets are susceptible to serious harm from drinking the water.

Report illness from swimming in Lake Lariat to the Health Department: 410-535-3922 or 301-855-1557

For more information visit:

www.calverthealth.org/healththreats/healthhazards/microcystis.htm or www.dnr.state.md.us

Posted by authority of the CALVERT COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER