For Immediate Release  
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Algal Bloom on Peach Lake, Ogemaw County

District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2), working in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), would like to make residents aware of an algal bloom identified on Peach Lake in Ogemaw County. People and pets should avoid direct body contact with scummy water in the lake, water that looks like spilled paint, or water with a green or blue-green sheen to it. People and pets should also avoid swallowing the lake water.

There are different types of naturally occurring algal blooms that may be seen on lakes and rivers and most are not harmful. However, there are some that are a type of cyanobacteria that have the ability to produce toxins – causing a harmful algal bloom (HAB). Testing conducted on Peach Lake on May 21 and May 26, 2020 showed the algal bloom to be negative for one of the toxins associated with HABs. However, as confirmatory testing is being conducted, caution should still be used. DHD2 wants to make residents aware of a potential for HABs to exist on the lake, although no evidence suggest one is present now. Residents should remain cautious about contact with algal blooms on the lake because the amount of toxins and location of the bloom can change over time. Unless the bloom covers a large portion of the lake, people can limit their exposure by using an unaffected part of the lake that does not have visible algae.

The appearance of cyanobacteria is not unusual in the summer and fall and has been appearing in a growing number of Michigan lakes. You should be on the lookout for the presence of visible algae or scums on any lake.

DHD2 would like to provide the following reminders:

• Stay out of water that may have a HAB
• Do not let your children or pets play in HAB debris on the shore
• After swimming in lake water, even where no HABs are visible, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible
• Do not swallow lake water, whether you see HABs or not
• Do not cook with or drink lake water
• See a doctor if you or your children might be ill from HAB toxins. If your pet appears ill, contact your veterinarian.

If you would like more information on algal blooms, visit EGLE’s Harmful Algal Bloom web page at [www.michigan.gov/habs](http://www.michigan.gov/habs), or call DHD2 at 1-800-504-2650.