

From:
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Dear KLA Members,

The beginning of August coincided with the first reports of possible cyanobacteria (or “blue green algae”) in Keuka Lake. With these outbreaks (or “blooms”), there can be many different types of these algae, and many can be harmful; collectively we refer to these as HABs (or harmful algal blooms).

Testing is currently underway to determine the identification and possible toxicity of samples from the lake. We expect to bring you more information in the future.

There is a great deal of information about HABs, but a common problem in today’s internet-mediated world is not getting enough information (there’s too much!), but sifting through and getting the right information. To this end, the KLA would like to recommend three “starter” websites that you can go to and get clear, relevant, and up-to-date information about HABs. The first 2 sites are from the NY Department of the Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the third is from the NYS Department of Health (DOH). Please use these sites as your first stop:

1. Good overview and up-to-date info on HABs and actions:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>

2. A one-page brochure with quick info and pics:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/habsbrochure.pdf

3. A one-page brochure from DOH with quick info and pics:

<https://health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae/>

Note: The first website listed has a link to report the possible HAB to the DEC under "Report It!". You can fill out a form and email it and post a picture to the DEC. The DEC then notifies our KLA CSLAP representative, Maria Hudson, to take a sample which provides results in a few days.