

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Algal Bloom Signs Posted Along Maumee River in Defiance County

Defiance, OH – In response to harmful algal blooms detected this summer in the Maumee River in Defiance County, Defiance County Public Health collaborated with Defiance City and Defiance County to post general informational signs at public access points along the Maumee River in Defiance County.

The purpose of these signs is to inform the public of what harmful algal blooms may look like. The white metal signs placed at the five city or county owned public access sites on the Maumee River contain the following message:

Have fun on the water, but know that blue-green algae may be present in Ohio rivers. Their toxins may be too. Be alert! Avoid water that:

- *Looks like spilled paint*
- *Has surface scums, mats or films*
- *Is discolored or has colored streaks*
- *Has green globs floating below the surface*

Avoid swallowing river water.

For more information, visit OhioAlgaeInfo.com or call 1-800-OHBEACH

Should river conditions change or if harmful algal blooms are detected in our county, orange or red public health advisory signs will be posted. Residents will be alerted through local media outlets.

An algal bloom is a concentration of cyanobacteria (a bacteria found in all bodies of water) that is usually visible and discolors the water. A bloom can vary in size, location, and make-up based on weather conditions (wind, rain, and sunlight), water currents, and nutrient supplies. Cyanotoxins can be produced by cyanobacteria and can cause illness in animals and humans. Symptoms of cyanobacteria exposure include rash, hives, blisters, severe diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain

For more information on harmful algal blooms visit Ohio EPA's website at www.ohioalgaeinfo.com or DCGHD's website at www.defiancecohealth.org, Facebook: Defiance County Health Department or Twitter: @DCGHD

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