

Officials Warn of Blue-Green Algae in Lake Ronkonkoma

Health officials warn against swimming in the lake.

By [Ryan Bonner \(Patch National Staff\)](#) Updated September 2, 2014 at 4:31 pm

Health officials are warning against swimming in Lake Ronkonkoma after a localized cyanobacteria bloom, commonly known as blue-green algae, was found in the lake.

Though cyanobacteria are naturally present in lakes and streams in low numbers, they can become abundant, forming blooms in shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown or red, officials said. They may produce floating scums on the surface of the water or may cause the



water to take on paint-like appearance. Because blue-green algae can become toxic, officials are asking residents not to use or swim or wade in these waters and to keep their pets and children away from the affected area.

Contact with surface water that appears discolored should be avoided, officials said. If contact does occur, rinse off with clean water immediately, and if symptoms occur, such as nausea, vomiting or diarrhea; skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties, seek medical attention.

To report a suspected blue-green algae bloom at a body of water that contains a Suffolk County permitted bathing beach, contact the Suffolk County Department of Health Services' Office of Ecology at 631-852-5760.

To report a suspected blue-green algae bloom that is in a body of water that does not contain a Suffolk County permitted bathing beach, contact the Division of Water at New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at 518-402-8179.

For more information about blue-green algae, visit the Suffolk County website [here](#).