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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5/27/2026

Public Health Advisory: Harmful Algal Bloom Confirmed at Lake Ovid (Sleepy Hollow State Park) in Clinton County

Clinton County, MI – During routine beach monitoring at Sleepy Hollow State Park in Laingsburg, it was noted and confirmed by The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) that an algal bloom had formed and tested positive for algal toxin microcystin.

MMDHD is recommending people and pets visiting the park avoid areas of the lake where the algal bloom is present, until the bloom dissipates.

Algae are naturally occurring plant-like organisms found in water. When conditions are right (during periods of warm temperatures, lots of sun, and high nutrient content), these organisms can increase rapidly to form an algal bloom. Blooms can take on many appearances. They can be different colors, can look foamy or scummy, look like a mat on the surface of the water, look like spilled paint, have a green sheen to it, or even look clumpy. Most blooms are harmless, but some produce toxins, which can be poisonous to humans, animals, and aquatic life. It's difficult to tell by looking at a bloom if it is harmful or not, so when in doubt, keep yourself and animals out of the water. To see examples of what an algal bloom looks like, visit:

<https://www.mmdhd.org/recreational-water/> and click on "Harmful Algal Bloom Picture Guide."

Actions to take where an algal bloom is present include:

- Obey posted public health advisory signs and/or beach closings.
- Do not let people, pets, or livestock near the shore or in the water in affected areas.
- Do not let people, pets or livestock drink the water.
- Do not let people, pets, or livestock eat scum on the shore.
- Rinse off people and pets with fresh water after contact with the water.

Breathing in or swallowing water containing harmful algal blooms and their toxins may cause the following symptoms in people: diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, headache, weakness, numbness, tingly fingers, dizziness, difficulty breathing, asthma-like symptoms, runny eyes and nose, allergic reactions, sore throat, headache, and allergic reactions. Skin contact can cause rashes, blisters, or hives. If you or a loved one experiences any of these symptoms after contact with water that may have a harmful algal bloom, call your doctor right away.

Animals, especially dogs, can become ill or die after contact with a harmful algal bloom. Signs of illness include vomiting, diarrhea, staggered walking, and convulsions. If your pet or livestock

animal becomes sick after contact with water that may have a harmful algal bloom, contact your veterinarian right away.

If you think you may have found an algal bloom, you can report it to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) by emailing AlgaeBloom@michigan.gov (pictures are encouraged) or by calling 800-662-9278.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/habs.

About the Mid-Michigan District Health Department: *The Mid-Michigan District Health Department has proudly served the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties since 1966. We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.*

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