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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Following the Category 3 Cyanobacteria bloom that resulted in the closure of the public swim area at Sears Park, laboratory testing for the presence of toxins was conducted at Northeast Labs in Berlin, CT.

**Testing confirmed the presence of Microcystin toxins at low levels (2.5ppb). Toxin levels were below the threshold known to be of concern for human health (8ppb).**

Chatham Health District will increase the frequency of visual observations until it can be confirmed that the Category 3 bloom observed at the park last week has dissipated. The closure of the public swim area will be lifted if the following two conditions are met:

1. Successive visual observations reveal that the Category 3 bloom has dissipated in the public swim area
2. Microcystin toxin testing confirm that toxins are neither increasing, nor being produced at or above the threshold of 8ppb

Residents should be aware that **conditions favorable to the rapid growth of Cyanobacteria are likely to continue for some time**, and that the presence or absence of a bloom in one part of the lake does not mean a bloom will or will not occur on other parts of the lake. Residents who have private access points to the lake are encouraged to observe the water before contacting the water, and before allowing children or pets to contact the water. Avoid contacting water that has a noxious odor, appears green throughout (sometimes referred to as looking like pea soup), or that has mats, films or scums accumulating on the surface.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Melmed', is positioned above the printed name.

Russell Melmed  
Director of Health