


## Toxin Results Supplement - Sears Park Cyanobacteria Report, 6/18/2021

Russell Melmed <russell.melmed@chathamhealth.org>

Fri 6/18/2021 2:19 PM

 1 attachments (83 KB)

20210618\_Microcystins\_Sears\_Park.pdf;

Good afternoon,

Attached is the Microcystin toxin report from Northeast Laboratories. A variety of toxins that are harmful to human health can be produced by Cyanobacteria. When Cyanobacteria blooms have occurred in fresh-water lakes in Connecticut, Microcystins are the type most often produced, and commercial testing for Microcystins is readily available locally. **Today's test results indicate that the Cyanobacteria in Lake Pocotopaug were not producing detectable levels of Microcystins at the time and location the sample was collected.** Residents should be aware that Cyanobacteria can begin producing toxins at any time, and today's negative test does not mean that the Cyanobacteria in Lake Pocotopaug are not capable of producing toxins.

Russ

**In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, get vaccinated. If you are not yet fully vaccinated: wear a mask when indoors in public places, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet, avoid crowds, wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, stay home if you're sick. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://ct.gov/coronavirus). For general questions, call 2-1-1**

Russell S. Melmed, MPH  
Director of Health  
Chatham Health District  
240 Middletown Avenue  
East Hampton, CT 06424  
Tel: 860-365-0884  
Fax: 860-365-0885

---

**From:** Russell Melmed <russell.melmed@chathamhealth.org>

**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2021 11:01 AM

**Subject:** Sears Park Cyanobacteria Report, 6/18/2021

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached observation report. Chatham Health District received a number of reports this week of green surface scums around the lake. Surface scums of Cyanobacteria were verified by Chatham Health District in the shoreline areas adjacent to Sears Park (Image A), and small surface accumulations were verified in the shoreline areas near Spellman Point (Image B) and Markham Bay (Image C). Water clarity was good at the public swim area of Sears Park this week, though the water had a slightly hazy appearance. There were no mats, films, or scums of Cyanobacteria on the surface at the public swim area, **but cyanobacteria were visible distributed in small amounts across some portions on the surface of the water.** In addition, Northeast Aquatics Research is reporting the presence of scum-forming Cyanobacteria capable of producing toxins that may be harmful to human health when scums are present. A sample of the water at Sears Park has been submitted to a laboratory for toxin testing, and results will be reported once testing is complete. There were no reports of adverse health impacts, **but**

**conditions exist that may result in a harmful scum-forming algae bloom in the public swim area of Sears Park.**

Residents should avoid contact with water that looks green or blue-green throughout (sometimes described as looking like pea soup). Any mats, films, or scums on the surface of the water that are blue-green in color, look like spilled paint, or have a noxious odor (similar to Image A) should be reported to Chatham Health District and avoided. **Based on the visual observations this week, and reports from Northeast Aquatics Research, a warning advisory notice will be posted at Sears Park.** Signs will be posted at entry points to the swim area of Sears Park until the conditions improve.

Russ

**In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, get vaccinated. If you are not yet fully vaccinated: wear a mask when indoors in public places, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet, avoid crowds, wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, stay home if you're sick. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://ct.gov/coronavirus). For general questions, call 2-1-1**

Russell S. Melmed, MPH  
Director of Health  
Chatham Health District  
240 Middletown Avenue  
East Hampton, CT 06424  
Tel: 860-365-0884  
Fax: 860-365-0885



Report To: **CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT**  
Attn: Russell Melmed  
240 Middletown Ave, Ste 123  
East Hampton CT 06424

**EMAIL ADDRESSEE:** Russell.melmed@chathamhealth.org

Report Date: 6/18/2021  
Laboratory ID#: N2184404 - 01

Date Sampled: 6/18/2021  
Date Received: 6/18/2021  
Date Tested: 6/18/2021

**MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION:** Lake Pocotopaug, Sears Park - Swim Area, Center

**Microcystins:** <1 ppb

Approved by: *Alan C. J. [Signature]*  
Laboratory Director

