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Health Alert Issued for SE Nebraska Lake

(KTNC)--A health alert has been issued for a southeast Nebraska lake.

Officials with the Nemaha Natural Resources District say tests conducted this week at Iron Horse Trail Lake near DuBois returned toxic algae levels above limits set for safe contact with the water. The health alert status means that all activities involving body contact with the water – including swimming, wading, and water skiing – are restricted.

The health alert will be in place through at least August 22 and any high readings between now and then will extend the restrictions.

The recreation area itself remains open and all other activities – including boating, fishing, picnicking, camping, and hiking – are permitted. Visitors, though, are cautioned to not ingest or make contact with the water and to make sure that children and pets do not contact with the water. The main danger associated with this form of algae is skin irritation, but gastrointestinal illness and liver disease could result if the water is swallowed.

NRD staff collects water samples each week. Iron Horse Trail Lake is the only Nemaha NRD lake currently on health alert status.

Many Signals Communications