

# TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS

## WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A POTENTIAL TOXIC ALGAE BLOOM

- Keep people and pets away from algae blooms
- Report illnesses to local health jurisdictions
- Report potential toxic algae blooms to local health departments or Washington Department of Ecology. For more information or to report potential toxic algae blooms, please visit:

#### Freshwater Algae Control Program:

NWToxicalgae.org

#### WA Department of Ecology:

425-649-7000



### IS IT A HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOM?

Toxic algae blooms may look like **scums, clumps, films, or mats** along the shoreline that appear to be blue-green, green, brown, or red.

#### YOU CAN'T TELL BY LOOKING!!

Only laboratory tests of water samples can confirm if a bloom contains toxins.



### SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE

Potential signs and symptoms:



#### HUMANS

numbness, dizziness, headache, skin irritation, abdominal pain, vomiting.



#### PETS

diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, difficulty breathing, and death.

**\*symptoms may not be immediate\***

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Use less fertilizer if you can, and make sure your lawn fertilizer has zero phosphorus
- Clean up pet waste and put it in the garbage
- Landscape your yard to prevent soil erosion and runoff
- **Report illnesses** to local health jurisdictions

**Toxic algae blooms** are formed by an overgrowth of algae when temperatures are warm and nutrients (primarily phosphorus) are present.

Some toxic algae blooms produce liver, nerve, or skin toxins that may harm people, pets, and wildlife.