



Making a difference...together

Public Service Announcement

For Immediate Release

January 14, 2019

Elk Lake Tests Positive for Blue-Green Algae

Victoria, BC- The Capital Regional District advises that water samples taken from **Eagle Beach at Elk Lake**, located within [Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park](#), continue to test positive for a type of blue-green algae that can produce cyanotoxins. Visitors are advised to avoid swimming at Elk Lake and to keep animals on a leash to prevent them from drinking or swimming in the lake until the advisory has been lifted. There currently are no signs of toxic blue-green algae at Beaver Lake.

The algae usually produce a visible blue-green sheen, which appears as surface scum. Not all blooms are easy to see and toxins can still be present in the water even if you cannot see the blooms. Blooms are unpredictable and may occur at any time.

These algae are known toxin producers and these compounds have been detected previously at the park. Ingesting water containing these cyanotoxins may cause a range of symptoms, including headaches and abdominal pain in humans, and can lead to lethal liver damage in dogs.

Please visit www.crd.bc.ca/alerts and Twitter [@crd_bc](https://twitter.com/crd_bc) for updates on the status of the algae bloom. To learn more about blue-green algae visit these sites:

- [Healthlink BC](#)
- [Health Canada](#)

[Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park map \(PDF\)](#)

-30-

For further please contact:

CRD Regional Parks

Tel: 250.478.3344

For media inquiries please contact:

Laurie Sthamann, Communications Coordinator

Tel: 250.360.3332 | Cell: 250-889.8030