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## Public Service Announcement

For Immediate Release

July 11, 2017

### Beaver Lake Tests Positive for Blue-Green Algae

Victoria, BC- The Capital Regional District advises that water samples taken from Beaver Beach at [Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park](#) have tested positive for a type of blue-green algae that produces cyanotoxins. Visitors are advised to avoid swimming at Beaver Lake and to keep animals on a leash to prevent them from drinking or swimming in the lake. There are no signs of blue-green algae at Elk Lake. The algae usually produce a visible blue-green sheen, which appears as surface scum. However, 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, although blooms most typically occur over the winter months from November to March. These algae are known toxin producers and these compounds have been detected previously at Elk and Beaver Lakes. 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](http://www.crd.bc.ca/alerts) and Twitter [@crd\\_bc](https://twitter.com/crd_bc) for updates.

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