North Fork Shenandoah River - Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) Report

Issued: Friday 7/23/2021

Next Issue: on or about Monday 8/2/2021

Out of an abundance of caution, an advisory has been issued for the North Fork Shenandoah River due to the detection of cyanobacteria toxins within mat material at two sites; Bethel Road (near the intersection of Rt. 644) and at Strasburg, near S Holliday Street (Rt. 648). While the cyanobacteria mats at those two discreet locations are wide-spread, they were not observed throughout the entire ~5 mile stretch of this river segment. Weather and other environmental factors can cause rapid changes in water quality and cause mat material to shift in location. People and pets should avoid contact and accidental ingestion of cyanobacteria mats throughout the river. The drinking water plant at Strasburg is working with state and county officials to ensure the continued safety of drinking water and will continue to monitor for algal toxins at the plant intake.

When in Doubt, Stay Out!

Avoid swimming, fishing or letting your children or pets play in bodies of water that:
- Smells bad
- Looks discolored
- Contains scum or algal mats on the surface or bottom of the waterbody

For more information or to report an algae bloom visit www.SwimHealthyVA.com

To report a HAB-related illness contact the HAB Hotline at 888-238-6154.