

TOWN OF NORTH READING  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
235 NORTH STREET  
NORTH READING, MA 01864  
(978) 357-5242 • (978) 664-1713 (FAX)  
[HTTP://WWW.NORTHREADINGMA.GOV/HEALTH-DEPARTMENT](http://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department)

MICHAEL P. GILLEBERTO  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

ROBERT F. BRACEY  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

August 1, 2017

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY – MARTINS POND CLOSED**

The Town of North Reading Health Department would like to advise all Town residents that as of August 1, 2017 Martins Pond will be closed and the following are prohibited uses until further notice.

- Human contact uses – boating, fishing and all other recreational uses
- Animal/pet contact uses.

The Town of North Reading conducted Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) testing on July 28, 2017 by Northeast Laboratories. On July 31, 2017 the lab results indicated the Martins Pond water quality exceeded the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Cyanobacteria guidelines of 70,000 cell/ml for recreational waters. The lab results indicated the Cyanobacteria water quality levels in Martins Pond ranged at 170,000 cell/ml to 280,000 cell/mL, which is four times (4x) higher than the MDPH guideline level.

The North Reading Health Department and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) want to advise all residents and transient residents that the Martins Pond water quality is extremely toxic right now and potential contact uses and ingestion of water could be lethal for both children, adults and pets.

MDPH advises that this is a common occurrence this time of the year in the Commonwealth with lakes and ponds. MDPH also advises there is no treatment for the Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), the best course of action is to restrict all uses and allow the Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) to take its course to subside and dissipate.

The North Reading Health Department will work closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to monitor Martins Pond and provide updates to residents as to when it is safe to use Martins Pond for boating, fishing, and non-swimming recreational uses. For additional information on harmful algae blooms in fresh water bodies and protecting your pets from harmful algae blooms, please click on links provided by the Health Department below:

Harmful Algae Blooms in Fresh Water Bodies:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/exposure/algae/algae-fresh-water-english.pdf>

Protect Your Pets from Harmful Algae Blooms:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/exposure/algae/algae-pet-poster.pdf>

Residents with additional questions and concerns can contact either Mr. Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health at the Town of North Reading Health Department 978-357-5242 or visit the Town Health Department web site at [www.northreadingma.gov/health-department](http://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department) or The Massachusetts Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH)

**Note: Martins Pond is not an assigned bathing beach by the Town of North Reading Board of Health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and does not conform to the provisions of the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 445.000 "Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches". Recreational swimming at Martins Pond is prohibited.**