

# Health warning posted for FH Lakefront Park beach

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A water sample test taken Monday afternoon at Lake Metroparks Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park beach was determined as being positive for blue-green algae.

And while not all forms of blue-green algae contain the toxin cyanobacteria, neither the park system nor the Lake County General Health District is taking any chances.

Accordingly, the park system has been asked by the health Department — and is bliging — to begin posting

warnings about wading or swimming in the waters of Lake Erie at the beach, said Lake Metroparks Interim Executive Director Paul Palagyi.

Once the two agencies became aware of the initial test results, the park system immediately had the beach's lifeguards call to shore all those who were swimming and then explain the situation, Palagyi said.

Particularly vulnerable are children, the elderly and those persons with compromised immune systems, Palagyi said.

"We've also closed the dog

swimming portion of the beach since they can come into greater contact with the water by swallowing it," Palagyi said.

Palagyi said the preliminary test results were accomplished quickly, with more detail as to what blue-green algae form is present being expected to arrive late this afternoon.

Such results are important, since the Fourth of July holiday on Wednesday will likely attract a large crowd of people, including many swimmers.

"Hopefully the test results will come back negative (today)," Palagyi said.