

**Benton-Franklin
Health District**
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Benton-Franklin Health
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www.bfhd.wa.gov

Washington Department
of Health
www.doh.wa.gov

Centers for Disease
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www.cdc.gov

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HEALTH DISTRICT LIFTS RESTRICTIONS AT SCOOTENEY RESERVOIR

For Immediate Release

September 4, 2019

KENNEWICK — Benton-Franklin Health District has lifted the ban on recreational water activities at Scootenev Reservoir. The park, located between Othello and Connell, was closed August 16th after testing of an algae bloom showed high levels of toxic bacteria in the water. The Health District has tested the water regularly since the algae was discovered and toxin levels are now considered safe for recreational activities such as swimming and fishing.

Testing earlier in the month revealed toxic levels of microcystin, a toxin produced by *Microcystis aeruginosa*, which is especially dangerous for small children and animals. Swimmers should remain vigilant and assess water conditions before entering a lake, river, stream, or pond. The water is not safe to consume and children should be instructed not to put it in their mouths or swallow it.

The Health District will continue to periodically monitor the reservoir for toxins.

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