



**Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Cabinet for Health and Family Services**

**Andy Beshear, Governor**

**Eric Friedlander, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Susan Dunlap**  
(502) 226-0245  
susan.dunlap@ky.gov

**Water Recreation Tips from Public Health, Division of  
Water**

***More Kentuckians expected to spend time on the water starting Memorial weekend***

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (May 28, 2021) – With summer approaching, the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health’s (KDPH) Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (EPHT) offer these safety tips to help Kentuckians enjoy the many rivers, lakes and creeks in which to boat, fish, swim, canoe or otherwise enjoy our abundant water resources.

Despite many water quality improvements, there is the potential for human health risks in any body of water. By applying common sense, risks of experiencing water-derived health issues can be greatly decreased.

DOW and DPH recommend that the public:

1. Avoid ingesting or inhaling the water.
2. Thoroughly clean hands and other areas that have come in contact with the water.
3. Avoid allowing open wounds to have direct contact with the water.

4. Avoid areas where swimming or harmful algal bloom (HAB) advisories have been issued.
5. Avoid water with obvious odors or surface scums.
6. Avoid getting in water after heavy rainfall, especially in dense residential, urban and agricultural areas.
7. Avoid areas below wastewater treatment facility outfalls, animal feedlots, straight pipes or other obvious sources of pollution.
8. Restrict pets and livestock from drinking the water if a bright green or blue-green surface scum is present.

More information concerning the quality of Kentucky's water resources such as advisories may be found [here](#).

If you experience symptoms, such as gastro-intestinal upset or rash, after recreation in natural waters, such as streams, rivers or lakes, consult your physician or call your local health department.

For more information on healthy swimming in all water bodies, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/>.

For more information on the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, visit <https://kyibis.mc.uky.edu/ehl/dataportal/Introduction.html>.

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*The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and health care programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services; the Department for Community Based Services; the Department for Public Health; the Department for Aging and Independent Living; and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.*