



Public Health
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MEMORANDUM

Date: June 25, 2009

To: Muskegon County Municipalities along Lake Michigan

From: Victoria Webster, Environmental Health Supervisor

RE: Algal Scum Material on Lake Michigan Beaches

Public Health – Muskegon County has received complaints of scum material washing up along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Muskegon County. The public health department has been working in cooperation with lakeshore municipalities and Grand Valley State University, Annis Water Resources Institute to assess the situation.

Scientists at the Water Resources Institute have evaluated a small sample of scum and determined that it is **not part of a harmful algal bloom**. They have identified filamentous algae (common name “pond scum”) and diatoms. No public health advisory is being issued. However, residents are advised to practice common sense and avoid contact, inhalation or ingestion of algal scum material.

Please feel free to share this information with your residents if you should receive any inquiries.