



Vermont Cyanobacteria Collaboration

2026 CyanoSymposium

March 18, 2026

Cyanobacteria Program Origins

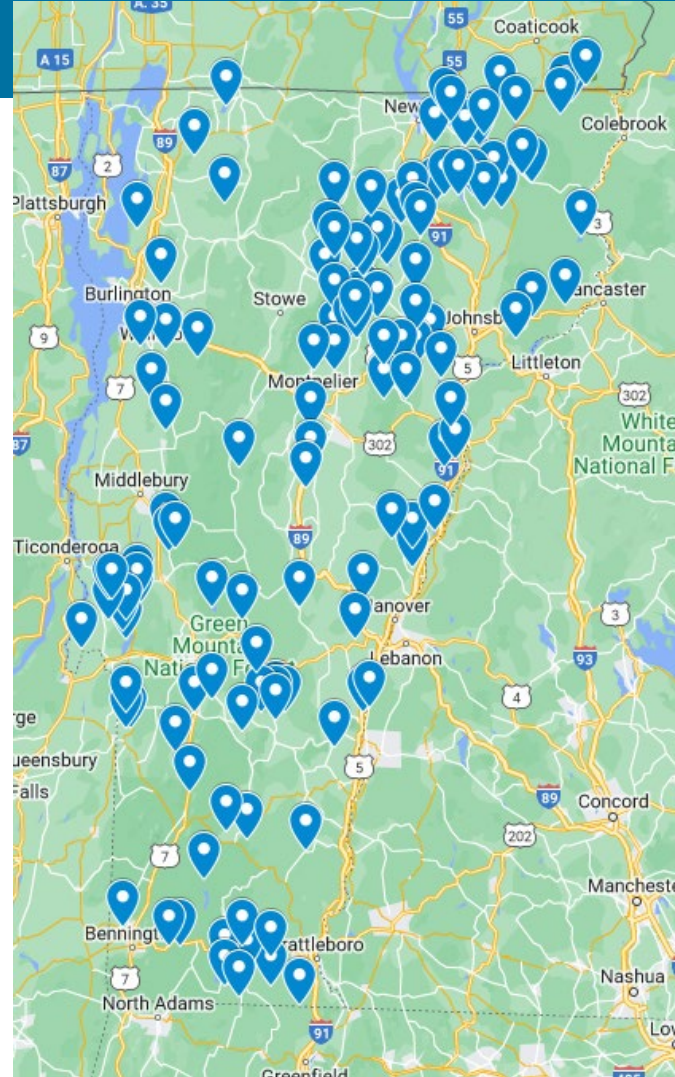
1999: Dog Deaths on Lake Champlain

2000: Start of Cyano Monitoring Program on Lake Champlain

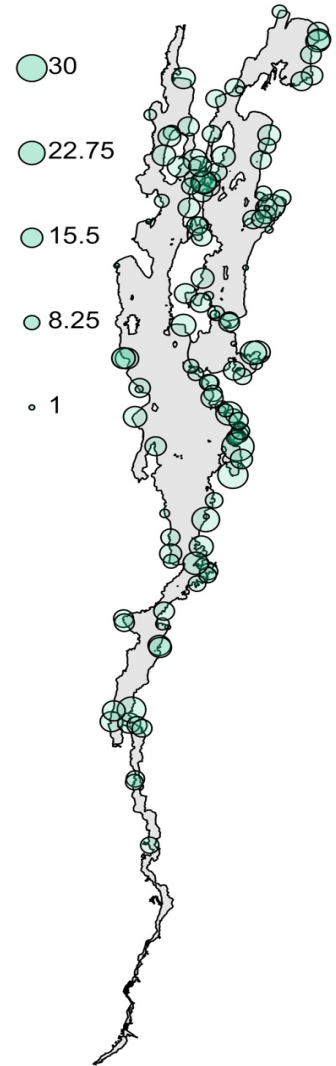
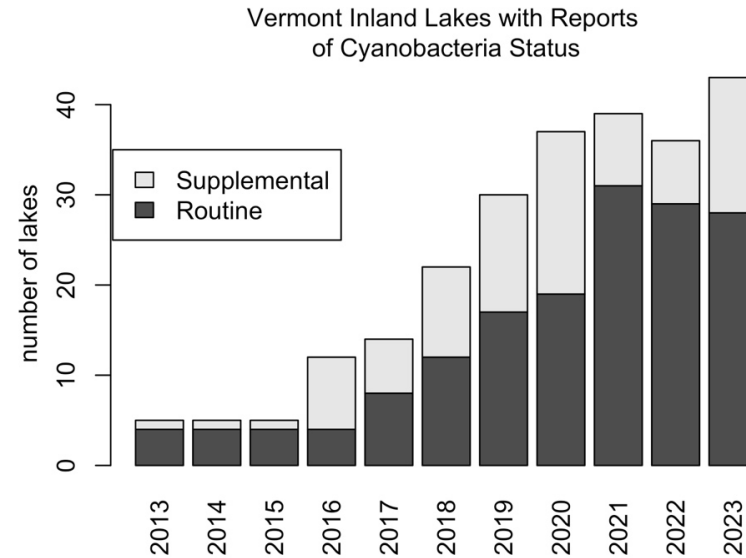
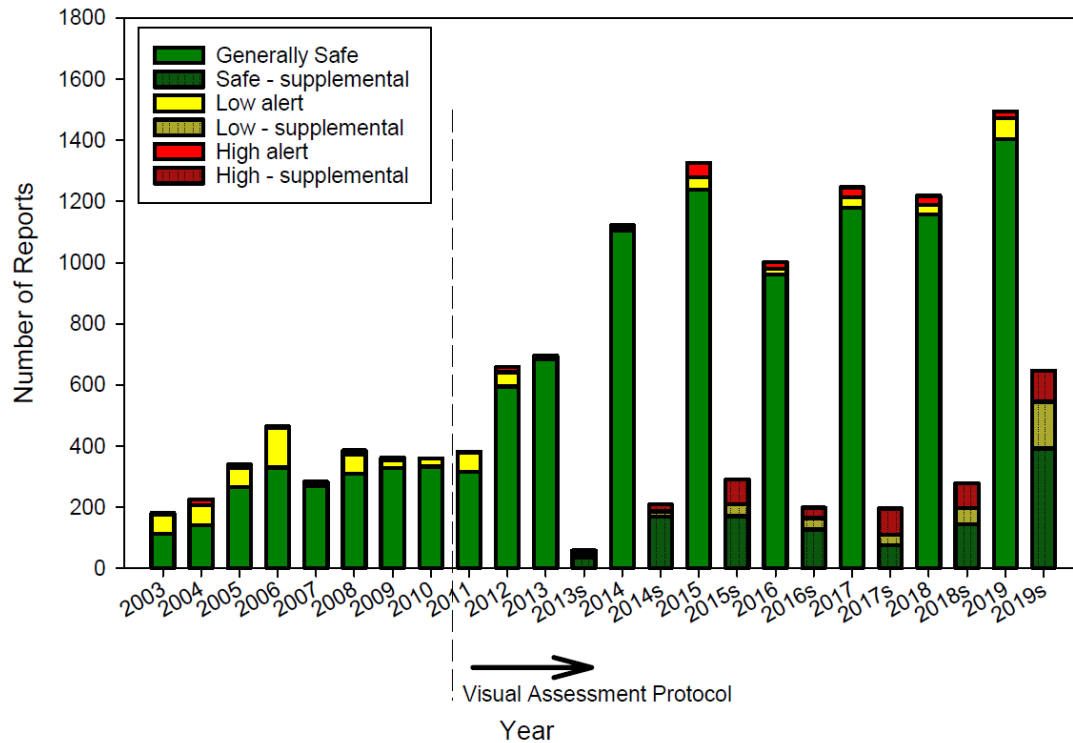
2003: Lake Champlain Committee expanded shoreline monitoring

2012: Visual assessment system

2013: Inland Lakes



Visual monitoring protocol has expanded monitoring




Cyanobacteria monitoring in Vermont is a partnership

- Lake Champlain Committee trains and manages volunteer monitors in the Lake Champlain Basin
 - ~330 trained volunteers in 2023.
- Vermont DEC
 - Lakes and Ponds - Microscopy and open water sampling
 - Trains volunteers on “inland” lakes, outside the LC Basin
 - QA sampling
 - Drinking Water Program - Coordinates drinking water sampling
- Vermont State Parks
- Laboratories
 - Toxin testing
 - Department of Health Lab → Environment/Agriculture Lab
- Health Department – Hosts the Cyano Tracker, conducts public health outreach and guidance

Visual Monitoring Reports

- June-Sept
- Weekly routine reports (same time, same place)
- Make an observation (**10am-4pm**) and report conditions via an online form:
 - **Generally Safe:** No or little visible cyanobacteria
 - **Low Alert:** Small amounts of cyanobacteria
 - **High Alert:** Dense scums or highly colored waters were present
- Photos needed if any cyanobacteria is observed,
- Supplemental reports on “off days” or at non-routine locations
- We also accept Bloom Reports from the general public
- QA sampling

Routine Reports
Vermont Department of Health Cyanobacteria Reporter



[Click here to visit the Vermont Cyanobacteria Tracking Homepage](#)
[Click here to visit the Bloom Intensity Web Page](#)

1. Enter Information

Select Site (required)
Select...
On map below, type site number then click enter. This will place the point.

Report Date (required)
[Calendar icon]

Your Name (required)
[Text input]

Your Affiliation (required)
Select...

Report Type (required)
Select...

Water Temperature (°)
[Text input]

Water Surface (required)
Select...

Bloom Intensity (required)
Select...

Approximately how far along the shore does the bloom extend (in feet)?
[Text input]

How far out into the water does the bloom extend (in feet)?
[Text input]

Are there any additional relevant details?
[Text input]

[Click here to attach photos](#)
Select File

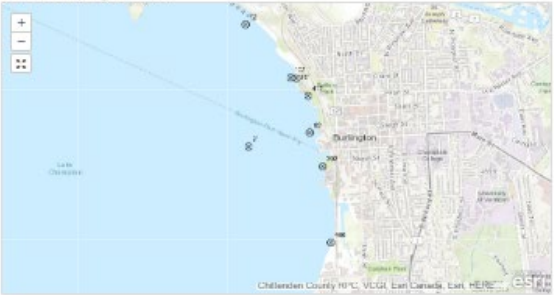
Photos are Required for Category 1d, 2, and 3 Reports

2. Select Location

Specify the location for this entry by clicking/tapping the map or by using one of the following options.

Search
Find address or place [Search icon]

Latitude: 44.45481, Longitude: -73.26282



Chittenden County VT, VT, East Canada, East, HERE

3. Complete Form

Add this information to the map.
Submit Report

Cyanobacteria Tracker

Using the Tracker [More Information](#)

Welcome to the Vermont Cyanobacteria Tracker!

The map shows the most recent cyanobacteria condition reports that were received from a given location.

Please note that this information can help you understand where cyanobacteria blooms have been reported recently, but **it can't tell you what the conditions are currently at your favorite swimming area**. This is because bloom conditions can change rapidly, and not all locations are monitored. Everyone should learn what cyanobacteria blooms look like, and stay away from them if you think you see one. [Learn more about cyanobacteria and how to recognize blooms.](#)

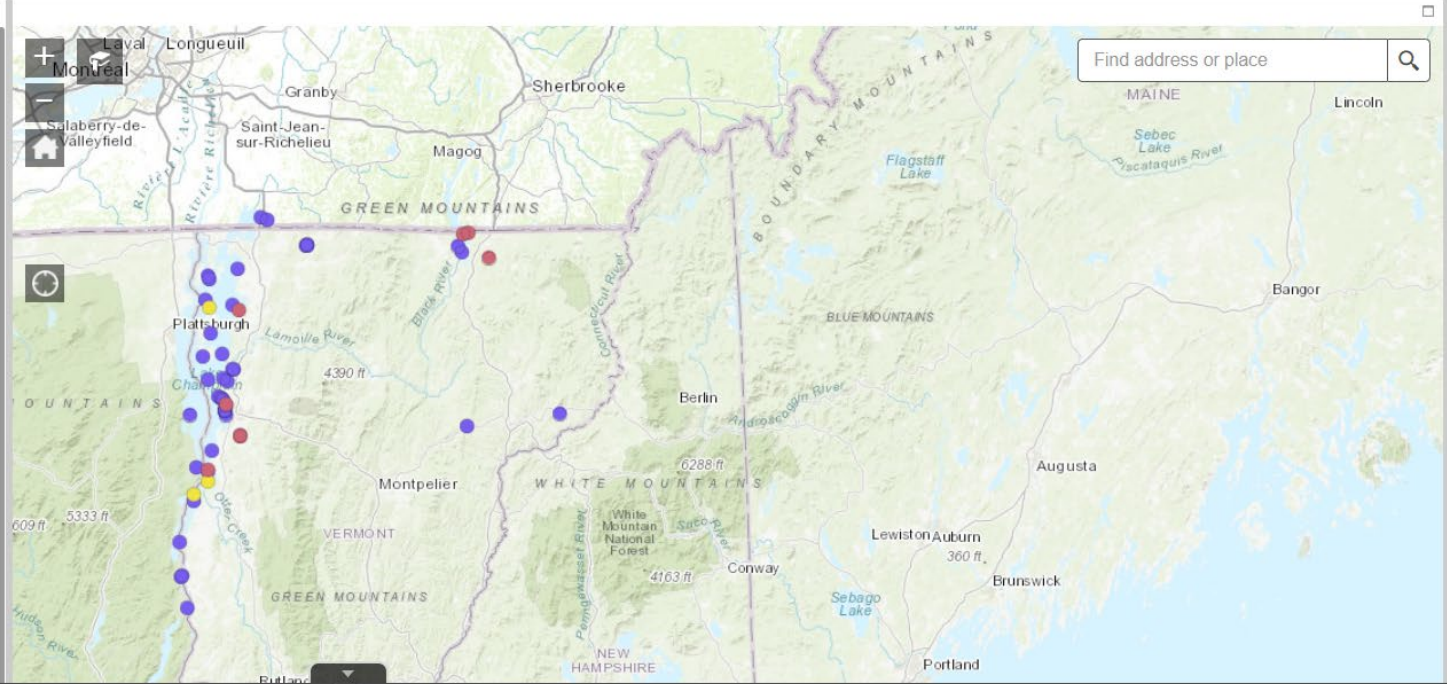
How to find information about a cyanobacteria report

Legend:

- Generally Safe
- Low Alert
- High Alert

You can move the map or zoom in and out to find a location you're interested in by:

- Scrolling on the map with your mouse
- Clicking, then dragging the map



Cyanobacteria Reports

Options Filter by map extent Zoom to Clear selection Refresh

Report Date	Report Type	Site Name	Site Number	Waterbody	Town	Attachments
6/26/2023, 10:30 PM	Generally Safe	Miles Pond Public Beach	548	Miles Pond	Concord	0
6/26/2023, 2:35 PM	Generally Safe	Lake Carmi State Park - Area B	415	Lake Carmi	Franklin	4 files
6/26/2023, 2:21 PM	Generally Safe	Leddy Park	54	Lake Champlain	Burlington	0
6/26/2023, 2:00 PM	Generally Safe	Town Beach, Joes Pond	464	Joes Pond	West Danville	0

Cyanobacteria Tracker - Caveat

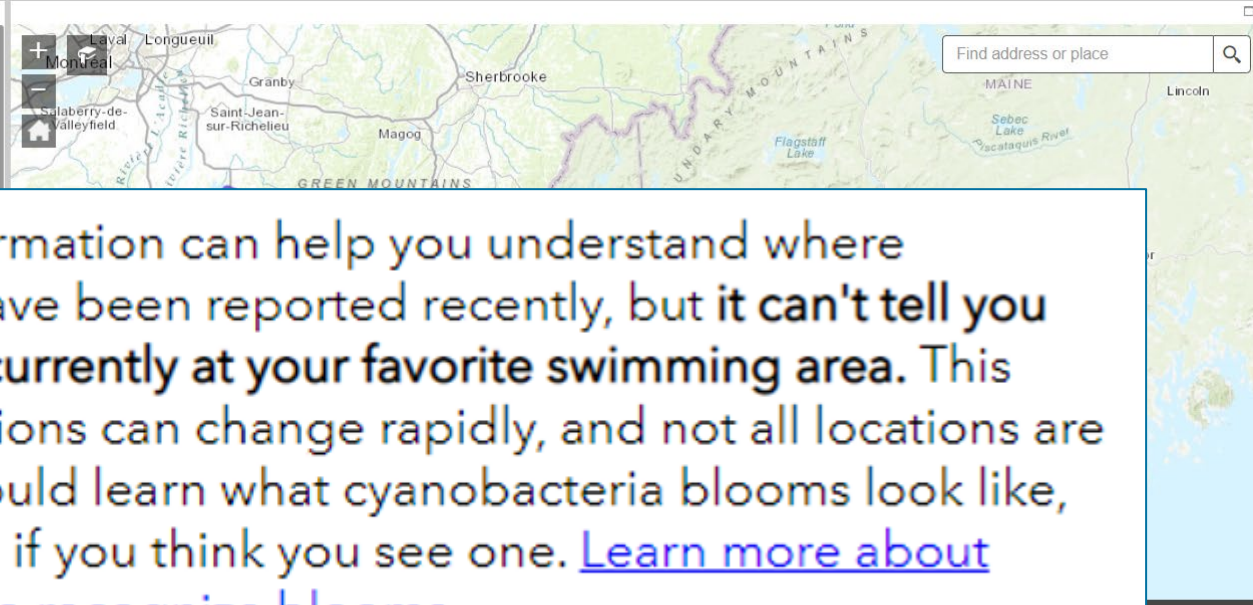
Using the Tracker More Information

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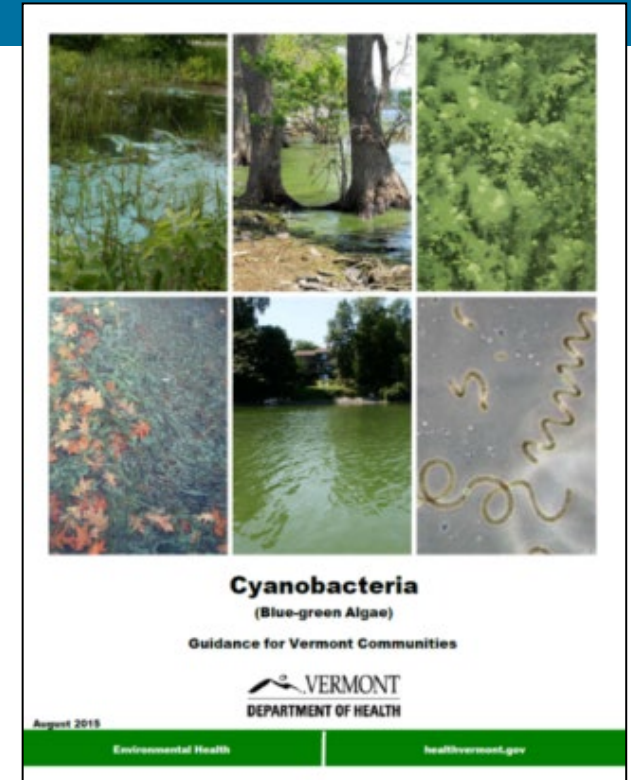


The map displays the state of Vermont with various towns labeled, including Laval, Longueuil, Montreal, Granby, Sherbrooke, St-Jerome, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Mago, and Lincoln. It also shows geographical features like the Green Mountains, Flagstaff Lake, Sebec Lake, and the Yacataquis River. A search bar in the top right corner contains the text "Find address or place".

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What happens if there is a bloom?

- Reach out to Town Health Officers and Beach Managers
- VDH Guidance
 - Close the beach if there is a visible bloom
 - Coordinate with VDH/DEC to test for toxins – after the bloom has dissipated
 - Reopen only if there is no visible cyanobacteria scum, **and** microcystin and anatoxin-a levels are below the levels of concern
 - Microcystin 8 ug/L
 - Anatoxin 8 ug/L
 - Cylindrospermopsin 15 ug/L



Signs

CAUTION Cyanobacteria



Cyanobacteria
you sick.

Stay away from
brown, red,



Stay away from
may be on the



When in doubt,
www.healthvermont.gov
1-800-439-8550

WARNING

Pink Cyanobacteria Has Been Reported This Year

See stuff that looks like pink silly string in the water? It's actually a type of cyanobacteria. It can also be purple or brown and **it can make you sick.**



- Stay away from cyanobacteria blooms in the water.



- Be sure children and pets don't eat pieces of cyanobacteria.

- If you come into direct contact with cyanobacteria, rinse off with clean water immediately.



When in doubt, stay out. For more information:
HealthVermont.gov/cyanobacteria 1-800-439-8550



CAUTION Water is Closed

Due to cyanobacteria.
(green algae) may make

Water.

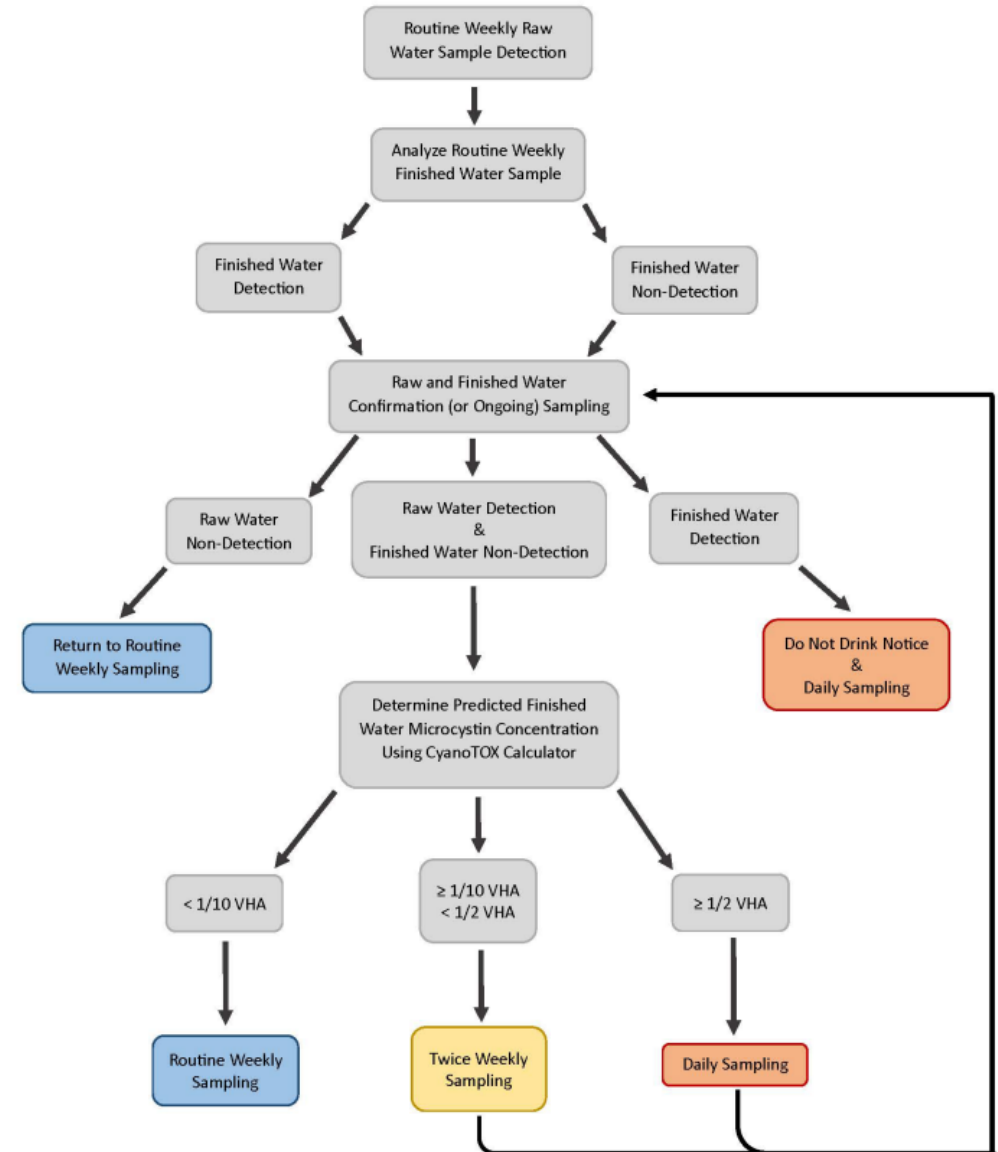
For more information:
Cyanobacteria



Drinking Water Testing

- Monitoring 22 systems on Lake Champlain since 2015
 - Raw and Finished Water
 - Microcystin
- Low level detections in raw water
 - One prolonged raw water detection in 2022
- No detections in finished water
- Expanded to “inland” systems in 2023
 - Raw water
 - Use of the CyanoTox calculator to determine

Appendix A
Cyanotoxin Monitoring Program Detection Procedures



Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

Email: Bridget.obrien@vermont.gov

Web: HealthVermont.gov/cyanobacteria

Social: @HealthVermont

