

Jordan River/Utah Lake FAQ

What is going on?

Elevated levels of a harmful bacteria in Utah Lake, Jordan River, and the Salt Lake County canal system, have prompted state and local agencies to restrict access to those bodies of water. The harmful bacteria is caused by an algal bloom originating in Utah Lake, which is migrating into the Jordan River and Salt Lake County canal system. Salt Lake City residents are strongly encouraged to avoid contact with water, and to keep pets out of the Jordan River.

Who is affected?

Bacteria can cause health effects in both humans and animals. Residents and their pets are advised to avoid coming into contact with water from Jordan River and County canal system.

Those using secondary water for irrigation are encouraged to find alternate sources.

Anglers are advised to avoid fishing in the waters or consuming fish from impacted sources.

City-sponsored activities on and around the Jordan River are subject to cancellation. Please contact the sponsoring agency (Youth City, Sorenson, etc.) for additional information.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Salt Lake City Department of Parks and Public Lands has temporarily closed the Liberty Park pond. (see message below)

Drinking water is not affected. For questions related to culinary water call: 801-483-6900

How long will this last?

It is difficult to know exactly how long this situation will last. Experts are monitoring the Jordan River and canal system and updates will be posted on:

<http://deq.utah.gov/locations/U/utahlake/algae-bloom.htm>

What if I come into contact with the water?

Exposure can cause vomiting, nausea, and skin rashes. The toxins can cause neurological and liver damage if consumed. If you believe you have symptoms contact poison control: 1-800-222-1222

For pets/animals call SL County Animal Services: 385-468-7387

More Questions?

If you have any questions contact the Utah Department of Health **385-468-8888**.

Social Media Messaging

Twitter:

1.

#SLC residents & pets advised to avoid contact w/ Jordan River & Little Cottonwood Creek due to UT Lake algae #utpol

Residentes y mascotas de #SLC evitar contacto con Jordan River & Little Cottonwood Creek por Alga tóxica de UT Lake #utpol

2.

Monitoring Jordan River due to algae bloom in UT Lake. Avoid contact w/ water until further notice. More info -> <http://bit.ly/29NinHx>

Monitoreo de Jordan River por Alga Tóxica de UT Lake. Evite contacto con agua hasta nuevo aviso. Más info <http://bit.ly/29NinHx>

3.

#SLC drinking water is not affected by UT Lake-Jordan River algae bloom. Different source #utpol

#SLC Agua culinaria es no afectado por el Alga Tóxica de UT Lake- Jordan River. Surtidor diferente. #utpol

4.

As precaution, Liberty Park pond is temporarily closed. @SLCPPL is currently flushing pond to ensure safety -><http://bit.ly/29LnwuP> #utpol

Facebook:

****Advisory****

Elevated levels of harmful bacteria cause by the Utah Lake algal bloom have been found in the Jordan River and Salt Lake County canal system. Residents and their pets are strongly advised to avoid using water, or coming into contact with water from the Jordan River or canals. [#SLC](#)'s drinking water comes from a different source and is NOT impacted by this issue.

Nextdoor Message:

Elevated levels of a harmful bacteria in Utah Lake, the Jordan River, and the Salt Lake County canal system have prompted state and local agencies to close access points to these bodies of water. Salt Lake City residents are strongly encouraged to avoid contact with water and to keep pets out of the Jordan River and canal system.

Drinking water in Salt Lake City is not affected as it comes from a different source.

For more information visit: <http://deq.utah.gov/locations/U/utahlake/algal-bloom.htm>

Nextdoor Message Liberty Park:

Out of an abundance of caution, Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands is temporarily closing the pond at Liberty Park. The pond is partially fed by sources connected to the Jordan River water system. The pond is being flushed with alternate sources of water and will be open for regular use when this is complete. Though no visible signs of contamination have been found, the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities has proactively taken water samples from the pond. The pond is serviced with "mixers" which continuously stir the water, which limits the possibility of algal contamination. During this closure Salt Lake City is asking residents to avoid contact with the water and to avoid letting pets near the water.

Note: No other water features in Liberty Park, including the Seven Canyons playground, or the sprinkler system are affected.