

05. August 2022

Press office

## **Blue-green algae: Swimming ban in Bocholter Aasee**

### **Closure of the bathing area due to possible health hazards // Keep pets away from the water too**

Swimming in Bocholter Aasee is prohibited with immediate effect. This is due to bacteria caused by blue-green algae. They can pose a health risk to humans and animals. The bathing ban applies until further notice. All contact with the water should be avoided.

This decision was made by the city of Bocholt after measurements taken during regular sampling confirmed increased algae formation in the Aasee.

The red flag on the signal mast in the area of the bathing bay and signs around the Aasee indicate the ban on bathing and swimming.

A complete closure of the entire body of water will not be imposed. Water sports such as sailing remain possible. However, the administration strongly advises caution and recommends avoiding contact with the water.

Dog owners who walk their dogs at Lake Aa should take special care of their pets and keep them away from the water. They could fall ill and, in the worst case, die due to the possible toxic effect of the bacteria.

The cause of the increased algae formation is being investigated and is presumably linked to the weather conditions. As the growth of blue-green algae is dependent on temperature and precipitation, it is currently not possible to say how long the closure will last. The lake is continuously monitored using water samples.





*The bathing bay at Bocholter Aasee  
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