

Swimmers Itch Notice

Swimmer's Itch has been reported in this lake this year. It is a temporary, but annoying, skin infection caused by an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites that are carried by waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals and snails. It is a natural phenomenon that can occur in many water bodies and usually occurs in early summer. The parasites are found in shallow water and may cause a rash.

This flat worm is not a parasite of humans. However, about one third of people who come into contact with the parasite may have an allergic reaction and develop a rash. Swimmers itch is not contagious. **Anyone who swims or wades in infested waters may be at risk and children are often most affected because they tend to swim, wade and play in shallow water.**

The presence of swimmer's itch is NOT related to pollution or water quality. The following are recommended to reduce the incidence and severity of swimmer's itch:

- Toweling off immediately after swimming or wading.
- Shower immediately after swimming.
- Do not feed waterfowl to prevent birds from congregating near beach areas.
- Swim in water away from the shore.
- Use waterproof sunscreen or bug spray to help provide a skin barrier.

Questions contact Lake County Health Department at 847-377-8020

