

# UTAH WATER WATCH

## QUICK GUIDE – SAFETY



- NEVER enter water under dangerous conditions: high flows, extreme weather, flooding, rapids, abnormal colors or odors, etc. When in doubt, DON'T go out!
- Take a partner and/or let someone know when and where you are monitoring.
- Be aware of hidden dangers: barbed wire, metal, glass, snakes, etc.
- Stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, bug spray, wear good footwear, etc.
- Always wash your hands after monitoring and decontaminate equipment.
  - Decontamination Procedure:
    - Before leaving site, remove any visual debris (mud/plants).
    - Clean equipment with warm soapy water or disinfecting solution (e.g. Lysol, Bleach, Ethanol)\*
    - Completely dry out equipment.
      - Summer: approx. 7 days
      - Spring/Fall: approx. 18 days
      - Winter: approx. 30 days
    - \*IF you have multiple sites, bring distilled or purified water with you to rinse the equipment between sites. Start monitoring with your **least** "contaminated/dirty" site when possible.

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## QUICK GUIDE – MONITORING

### When to Monitor:

Once a month from April to October

E. coli monitoring is from May to September

- This means you do not need to collect water samples to test for E. coli in April and October.

### E. coli Identification - Color Guide

#### E. coli - Dark Purple

- w/ purple halo
- w/o purple halo
- w/ pink halo

#### E. coli - Dark Blue

- w/ purple or pink halo
- w/o halo
- w/ teal halo
- w/ blue halo

#### Not E. coli - Pink or Red

- w/o halo
- w/ pink halo

#### Not E. coli - Teal Green

- w/o halo
- w/ teal halo

#### Not E. coli - White



#### Note:

Do not count pinpoints if the plate is dominated by larger colonies. Pinpoints may be counted if they make up >50% of colonies. If possible, incubate a few additional hours to see if colonies will grow larger.

### HABs

If you suspect a Harmful Algal Bloom call the 24-hour Environmental Incidents Line at (801) 536-4123, then take photos and contact UWW by phone or email as soon as possible.