

LMOA Lake Preservation Committee
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E-Mail Transmission

August 25, 2011

To: Ms. Peggy Alexander, LMOA Communications Manager
Re: Naegleria Fowleri Amoeba

Dear Peggy:

LPC has received calls from members who have read news articles about the recent death of a Richmond child from apparent exposure to Naegleria Fowleri Amoeba (NFA).

According to VA DEQ and US CDC material NFA is very rare and "...proliferates at temperatures of 86 degrees F and thrives at temperatures between 95 and 113 degrees." (DEQ Lake Anna Report April 4, 2011). The CDC "Naegleria FAQs" national website indicates that there is no routine and rapid test for Naegleria fowleri in water, but recommends: "...recreational water users should assume that there is a low level of risk when entering all warm freshwater, particularly in southern-tier states." Nevertheless, CDC further suggests that if there is a concern, risk might be reduced by:

- "Avoid water-related activities in warm freshwater during periods of high water temperature and low water levels.
- Hold the nose shut or use nose clips...
- Avoid digging in, or stirring up the sediment...in shallow, warm freshwater areas."

LPC is not aware of historic temperature levels in Lake Monticello within the ranges noted above, and have received to date no contacts about NFA symptoms in swimmers. In an abundance of caution, we have contacted VA DEQ to inquire whether anything further may be considered to protect against NFA, but have not as yet received a response.

Rob

Robert L. Beck, Chair LPC
Cc: LPC; J Korhonen, GM