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DOH-LEE REMINDS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO AVOID CONTACT WITH ALGAE



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Alva, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Lee County is issuing a health advisory for the Alva Boat Ramp based on water sampling results from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP conducted sampling in the area and found the presence of Cyanobacteria, commonly known as blue-green algae. When algae is visible, DOH recommends individuals using the boat ramp avoid contact with the water. DEP will also continue to monitor the Alva Boat Ramp and post updates on their website.

Blue-green algae can cause gastrointestinal effects if swallowed. Additional information on bluegreen algae is available <u>here</u>. If you spot blue-green algae, please contact Kalina Warren, environmental administrator with DEP's Water Quality Assessment Program for the South Region at 407-897-4177.

DEP, the five water management districts, DOH, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services all work together to respond to algal blooms. DEP has been closely monitoring and testing algal blooms and will continue to respond to any new reports.

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