



# KEEPING FLORIDA INFORMED ABOUT BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



## IF YOU SEE A BLOOM, REPORT IT



Report algal blooms in public waters by calling 855-305-3903 or online by visiting [ReportAlgalBloom.com](http://ReportAlgalBloom.com).

Blooms in privately owned waters are not sampled as part of the state's response efforts. Private landowners may email [ProtectingFloridaTogether@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:ProtectingFloridaTogether@FloridaDEP.gov) for more information.

## BLOOM RESPONSE COORDINATION

Cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, blooms are an annual occurrence in the state of Florida. Blooms can produce toxins, which can be harmful to humans and pets.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Florida Department of Health (DOH) work with state and local partners to protect public health and the environment.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADDRESSING BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS?

DEP is the lead agency for environmental management of our state's water quality and oversees freshwater cyanobacteria bloom response and analysis. DEP staff review submitted reports daily, then prioritize site visits to sample reported blooms.



In public fresh waterbodies, site visits and sampling activities are performed by:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Water management districts.
- Trained local government (county and city) staff.

## YOU JUST PLACED A REPORT, WHAT'S NEXT?

Once sampled, the location and bloom conditions are typically posted the same day.

Results of toxin and algal identification are posted when laboratory analyses are completed. Analysis currently averages 3 business days.



Protecting Florida Together ([ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](http://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov)) and DEP's Algal Bloom Dashboard ([FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom](http://FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom)) relay this information to the public.

## AFTER DEP'S SAMPLING AND REPORTING, HOW DOES DOH TAKE ACTION?

DOH is the state's lead agency for public health and oversees public health notifications. Based on results, DOH may advise local county health departments to issue either a caution notice or a health alert.

### FOR A CAUTION



The presence of a bloom results in a caution notice. The county health department will follow local alert procedures to notify the public.



### FOR A HEALTH ALERT

The presence of a toxin results in a health alert notice. In addition to a caution notice, DOH will issue a health alert notice on [FLHealth.gov/HABNotifications](http://FLHealth.gov/HABNotifications).



Depending on the county health department, a caution notice can remain in effect only while blooms are present or throughout the bloom season.

A health alert is typically lifted once toxins are no longer detected or if 30 days have passed since the bloom was last observed and sampled.