

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2023

HEALTH OFFICIALS LIFT MULTIPLE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE ALERTS IN POLK COUNTY



Contact:

Lydia George, PIO
lydia.george@flhealth.gov
863-578-2146

Polk County, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Polk County (DOH-Polk) has lifted health alerts issued on June 9, 2023, for the presence of harmful blue-green algal toxins in Lake Rochelle – At Dock, Lake Hancock – South Central, Lake Smart – Hibiscus Dr, and Old Lake Davenport – Southwest Dock.

The health alert issued for Tiger Lake – Center on June 9, 2023 is still in effect. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sampled surface water on October 10, 2023 in Polk County for blue-green algal toxins and testing results indicated the presence of toxins still exist at Tiger Lake.

A health alert is lifted once follow-up water samples collected by DEP do not detect algal toxins or 30 days have elapsed since the last sampling date, indicating the public may resume water-related activities.

It is important that the public exercise caution and good judgement. Blue-green algae blooms can move around or subside and then reappear when conditions are favorable. Residents and visitors are advised to avoid contact with the water if blooms are observed. The latest sample results can be viewed on ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov.

Report symptoms from exposure to a harmful algal bloom or any aquatic toxin to the Florida Poison Information Center. Call 1-800-222-1222 to speak to a poison specialist.

####

About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.