

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 14, 2025



DOH-Lee Lifts Red Tide Health Alert for 21 Locations

Contact:

Noelia E. Martinez Irizarry
Lee-PIO@FLHealth.gov
239-332-9653

Lee County, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Lee County (DOH-Lee) has lifted the health alerts issued on December 9, 2024, December 10, 2024, December 26, 2024, January 3, 2025, January 31, 2025, February 4, 2025, February 5, 2025, February 6, 2025, February 10, 2025, and February 12, 2025, for the presence of red tide near the following locations:

Boca Grande Pass
Bonita Beach Park 6.3 miles W of Mainland
Bonita Beach Park 7.7 miles W of Mainland
Bokeelia (3 miles N of Charlotte Harbor)
Bokeelia Fishing Pier
Bowmans Beach (5.5 miles of Mainland)
Buck Key (1.9 miles NE of Pine Island Sound)
Captiva Pass
Captiva Rocks (SW of Pine Island Sound)
Cayo Costa (16 miles W of Mainland)
Cork Island (W of Pine Island Sound)
Cape Haze (2.2 miles SE of Charlotte Harbor)
Fort Myers Beach (2.3 miles S of Mainland)
Gasparilla Island State Park
Hemp Key (S of Pine Island Sound)
Pelican Bay (Pine Island Sound)
Redfish Pass
Redfish Pass (1.8 miles E of Pine Island Sound)
Regla Island (W of Pine Island Sound)
Sanibel Causeway (S of San Carlos Bay)
Sanibel Island 8.6 miles SW of Mainland

Follow-up water samples taken by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission show red tide is no longer present or is at background levels near this location, indicating the public may resume water-related activities.

It is important that the public continue to exercise caution as red tide status can change when conditions are favorable. If you experience respiratory or eye irritation, consider leaving the area or seeking relief in an air-conditioned space.

The latest sampling results can be viewed on [Protecting Florida Together](#).

What is Red Tide?

Red tide is caused by high concentrations of a toxin-producing dinoflagellate called *Karenia brevis* (*K. brevis*), a type of microscopic algae found in the Gulf of Mexico. Red tide typically forms naturally offshore, commonly in late summer or early fall, and is carried into coastal waters by winds and currents.

At high enough concentrations, *K. brevis* can discolor water and give it a red or brown hue. To learn more about the appearance of red tide, visit [Protecting Florida Together](#).

Is Red Tide Harmful?

K. brevis produces potent neurotoxins (brevetoxins) that can be harmful to the humans, pets, fish, and wildlife. Wind and wave action can break open *K. brevis* cells and release toxins into the air. This is why you should monitor conditions and use caution when visiting affected water bodies. People can experience varying degrees of eye, skin, and respiratory irritation from red tide. Sensitive individuals (e.g., children, the elderly, those who are immunocompromised, and those who have chronic respiratory conditions) may be at risk of experiencing more severe symptoms.

For additional information on potential health effects of algae blooms, visit the [Florida Department of Health's harmful algae blooms webpage](#).

Where Can I Find Current Water Status Information?

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission routinely collects and analyzes red tide samples from around the state. Current information about Florida's water quality status and public health notifications for harmful algae blooms and beach conditions is available at [Protecting Florida Together](#). You can [subscribe to receive notifications](#) when water quality changes in your area.

To hear a recording about red tide conditions throughout the state, call the toll-free hotline at 866-300-9399.

For local licensed shellfish harvesting status, visit the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#).

Where Can I Report Issues Related to Red Tide?

- **Human Health:** Report symptoms from exposure to a harmful algae bloom or any aquatic toxin to the Florida Poison Information Center by calling 800-222-1222 to speak to a poison specialist.
- **Animal Health:** Contact your veterinarian if you believe your pet has become ill after consuming or having contact with red tide contaminated water.
- **Fish Kills:** Dead, diseased, or abnormally behaving fish or wildlife should be reported to the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission online](#) or at 800-636-0511.

If you have other health questions or concerns about red tide blooms, please call DOH-Lee at 239-252-8200.

###

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 X at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](#).