

Health Outcomes Related to Algal Bloom Exposure Study Information

Thank you for your interest in our study. The research is being conducted by scientists at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and is designed to fill an important gap in our understanding of the impact of the current harmful algal blooms (HABS) on environmental and human health. The ability to correlate HAB concentrations to levels that might be found in coastal residents will provide essential data that can be used when determining public health risks.

Our investigators are recruiting study participants from coastal communities where ongoing HABs are occurring along with unexposed areas. We give participants a questionnaire and take biological samples to measure algal microcystin concentrations.

This research study, like all human subjects research, is conducted under Federal regulations that require the approval of an Institutional Review Board (IRB). FAU's Harbor Branch investigators are required to adhere to the IRB approved protocol procedures and we are not able to accommodate individual requests for diagnostic testing or to provide individual test results.

Once the research study concludes, any peer-reviewed and scientifically validated conclusions from the study will be shared.

*This study is part of FAU Harbor Branch's **Florida Center for Coastal and Human Health**. The Center's primary goal is to increase our understanding of the significant health and ecological threats associated with environmental changes in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) ecosystem, and how these threats will be affected by climate variability and human mediated changes (e.g. nutrient pollution, land use) in the system. The Center will actively seek to educate and engage the public on Center results, and work with numerous state and local stakeholders to fill a major scientific need required to protect the health and safety of the region's population. For more information on FAU Harbor Branch research, visit www.fau.edu/hboi.*

For information on how to support this study, visit our Springboard page by clicking here: <https://fauf.fau.edu/springboard/#/project/habs>.