Find out what agency is tracking the health effects of blue-green algae

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Dozens of people in and out of Florida have called poison control complaining about health problems from toxic blue-green algae.

We uncovered there is only one agency in the entire state that says its keeping track of health-related cases tied to blue-green algae exposure.

Thursday, the Florida Department of Health said despite knowing and publicizing on its website that the algae is a health hazard, it is not responsible for tracking cases of people affected by it.

The Florida Poison Control Centers is collecting that data.

Since November 2017, 57 people have called Florida poison control centers concerned about blue-green algae.

Thirty-three of those callers reported direct exposure and poor health.
Twenty-four callers reported they were just worried they may have been exposed to the algae.

Residents are upset health providers, and local health agencies aren’t doing more to track problems associated with the blooms.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission is tracking animals sickness and deaths associated with blue-green algae and cyanobacteria exposure.

We found necropsy results from ducks found dead in a Cape Coral canal on Lafayette Street and Coronado Parkway on July 12.

The report states the mallards had suffered from toxic cyanobacteria and some of their organs were stained green.

We reached out to Lee Health to find out if the health system is tracking blue-green algae health cases and are waiting to hear back.

If you are feeling any adverse effects from algae exposure, you should call the Florida Poison Control Centers at 1-800-222-1222.

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