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MARTIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

**BACTERIA LEVELS BACK TO NORMAL NEAR ROOSEVELT BRIDGE,
BUT RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO CONTINUE TO AVOID CONTACT
WITH BLUE GREEN ALGAE.**

The advisory to avoid contact with river water near the Roosevelt Bridge in Stuart has been discontinued. The advisory was issued because the level of enterococci bacteria exceeded the standards set by EPA. A resample taken Monday, June 28 was in the good range. Samples will continue to be collected from this site weekly and tested for enterococci and fecal coliform bacteria.

Residents are urged, however, to continue to avoid contact with blue green algae which has been observed in the St. Lucie River throughout Martin County. Contact with water containing the algae can cause skin irritation and hay fever-like symptoms. Residents should also take precautions to prevent their dogs from wading in or drinking the water in that area.

Blue green algae are commonly found in fresh water ponds and rivers in Florida. Sunlight, temperature and water's nutrients play a role in causing the algae to multiply.

If you spot blue green algae in your community:

Call Mary Murphy at the Department of Environmental Protection : (772) 398-2806

For questions about health issues related to blue green algae:

Call the Martin County Health Department : (772) 221-4090

To report fish kills:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Fish Kill Hotline: 1-800-636-0511

For more information on blue green algae:

www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/aquatic/cyanobacteria.htm

For results of all Martin County beaches sampled, visit the Department's Internet Beach Water Quality website at www.doh.state.fl.us - click on A-Z Topics, then select "Beach Water Quality" and "Martin County".

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