

# SCGOVNEWS

Sarasota County Communications  
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NEWSROOM

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

E-NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

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## Increased red tide levels detected on southern Sarasota County beaches

The latest beach water samples collected by Sarasota County Health Department and analyzed by Mote Marine Laboratory for the algae red tide (*Karenia brevis*) show a marked increase over test results from a week ago. The most significant increase for *Karenia brevis* was found at southern Sarasota County beaches, with the highest levels occurring at Manasota Beach.

People with asthma or chronic respiratory impairments may experience heightened symptoms associated with red tide when winds are blowing onshore.

Sarasota County staff is working with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Work Offender program to remove fish impacted by red tide on Manasota Beach, Nokomis Beach, Venice Beach and Brohard Beach Dog Park. County staff continue to inspect beaches and respond to reports of dead sea life.

Lifeguards are reporting no effects of red tide on any county beaches north of Nokomis Beach. Beaches in central and northern Sarasota County showing low to moderate levels of red tide include:

- Siesta Beach, 948 Beach Road, Siesta Key
- Lido Beach, 400 Ben Franklin Drive, Lido Key
- South Lido Beach, 190 Taft Drive and 2201 Ben Franklin Drive, Lido Key
- North Lido Beach, 400 Ben Franklin Drive, Lido Key
- Turtle Beach, 8918 Midnight Pass Road Sarasota
- Palmer Point Beach, south end Siesta Key and the north end of Casey Key

Residents and visitors may check beach conditions before heading out to the beach. The Mote Marine Laboratory's Beach Conditions Report is updated at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Reports can be viewed online at [www.mote.org/beaches](http://www.mote.org/beaches). Residents and visitors can also register to receive email updates about specific beaches. For telephone updates, call 941-BEACHES and press 1 for Sarasota County beaches.

Additional resources for beach condition information include:

- Visit Sarasota Beach report:  
<http://www.visitsarasota.org/beaches/>
- Visit Sarasota information about red tide:  
<http://www.visitsarasota.org/media-room/>

- For biweekly red tide monitoring reports from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: <http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/events/status/statewide/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/hab/default.htm>
- Florida Department of Health: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/aquatic/index.html>
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <http://www.floridaaquaculture.com/RedTide/RedTideInfo.htm>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/>
- Health-related information/reporting of illnesses from exposure to red tide: call toll-free 24/7 Florida Poison Control Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.

