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Algae that washed ashore not harmful

South Padre Island, TX, April 24, 2017: A Blue-Green Algae washed ashore at Isla Blanca Park today on South Padre Island and was immediately tested to confirm that it was no threat to humans. The Blue-Green Algae will tend to foam when it encounters wave action, which caused beachgoers to report it to authorities.

“Upon arriving on the scene, public safety personnel asked swimmers to leave the water as a preventative measure,” said Mayor Barry Patel. “A sample was taken to the UT-RGV Coastal studies lab where it was identified as Blue-Green Algae, which is not harmful to humans.”

The identification was confirmed with a second test performed by the City of South Padre Island.

Blue-Green Algae occurs naturally and would have been pushed to shore along with the seaweed that is typical in this time of year following a cold front.

“Public safety is our priority so we took immediate steps to ensure this was nothing to cause concern,” said Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino. “I am happy to report that the beaches are open.”

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