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DOH-Charlotte Updates Residents on *Naegleria fowleri*

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Charlotte County, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County (DOH-Charlotte) is providing an [update](#) on the detected case of *Naegleria fowleri* in Charlotte County. DOH-Charlotte, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, public utilities, and community partners continue to coordinate on this ongoing investigation, implement protective measures, and take any necessary corrective actions.

[Naegleria fowleri](#) is a microscopic single-celled living amoeba. In rare situations, the amoeba can cause an infection of the brain called [primary amebic meningoencephalitis \(PAM\)](#). **Infection with *Naegleria fowleri* is RARE and can only happen when water contaminated with amoebae enters the body through the nose. You CANNOT be infected by drinking tap water.**

As always, residents should continue following these best practice safety measures:

- **When making sinus rinse solutions, use ONLY distilled or sterile water. Tap water should be boiled for at least 1 minute and cooled before sinus rinsing.**
- **DO NOT allow water to go up your nose or sniff water into your nose when bathing, showering, washing your face, or swimming in small hard plastic/blow-up pools.**
- **DO NOT jump into or put your head under bathing water (bathtubs, small plastic or inflatable pools) – walk or lower yourself in.**
- **Keep small plastic or inflatable pools clean by emptying, scrubbing, and allowing them to dry after each use.**
- **Keep your swimming pool adequately disinfected with chlorine before and during use.**
- **DO NOT allow children to play unsupervised with hoses or sprinklers, as they may accidentally squirt water up their nose. Avoid slip-n-slides or other activities where it is difficult to prevent water going up the nose, or consider using nasal clips for added protection.**

DOH-Charlotte is providing nasal clips and educational materials at the location below while supplies last:

1100 Loveland Blvd,
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

It is essential to seek medical attention right away if you experience any of the following symptoms after a nasal water exposure, such as a sinus rinse: headache, fever, nausea, disorientation, vomiting, stiff neck, seizures, loss of balance, or hallucinations.

For more information on this amoeba, please visit the [CDC's website](#).

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.