



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Department of Human Services**

*Safety, Oversight, and Quality*

*PO Box 14530, Salem, OR 97309*

*3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, OR 97303*

*Phone: (503) 373-2227*

*Fax (503) 378-8966*

5/31/18

**TO:** Community Based Care:  
Assisted Living, Residential Care,  
Memory Care Facilities, and  
Nursing Facilities



**FROM:** Safety, Oversight and Quality

**RE:** Salem toxic drinking water warning

Gov. Kate Brown declares state of emergency over Salem tap water:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2018/05/gov\\_kate\\_brown\\_declares\\_state.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2018/05/gov_kate_brown_declares_state.html)

**CYANOTOXINS PRESENT IN DRINKING WATER DO NOT DRINK THE TAP WATER -- MAY 29, 2018 ELDERLY, INFANTS, YOUNG CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS.**

Applies to City of Salem, City of Turner, Suburban East Salem Water District, and Orchard Heights Water Association

**WHY IS THERE AN ADVISORY?** Low levels of cylindrospermopsin and microcystin (cyanotoxins) have been found in treated drinking water. These toxins are created by algal blooms in the source of City of Salem drinking water, Detroit Reservoir. To ensure the greatest quality of drinking water, City of Salem voluntarily samples for such toxins during algal events. Samples were collected on May 23, 2018 and May 25, 2018. Results confirmed the presence of cyanotoxins in the drinking water at levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Cyanotoxins National Drinking Water Health Advisories.

**Older adults, Children under the age of six, people with compromised immune systems, people receiving dialysis treatment, people with pre-existing liver conditions, pets, pregnant women or nursing mothers, or other sensitive populations should follow this advisory.** At this time, people not on this list may continue to drink the water unless additional messaging is received. The City of Salem will post an updated advisory when:

- the Cyanotoxin levels are less than or equal to the national drinking water Health Advisories;
- this Do Not Drink Advisory is lifted; and/or
- if there are any changes to the conditions of this Do Not Drink Advisory.

Updates will be provided Thursday, May 31, 2018 via the City of Salem web page, [CityofSalem.net](http://CityofSalem.net); City of Salem Alert System; local media; City of Salem social media. Residents can sign up on [CityofSalem.net](http://CityofSalem.net) to receive emergency alerts from the City.

For more information please visit [CityofSalem.net](http://CityofSalem.net) or call 503-588-6333. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, Community Based Care, Adult Foster Homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand.

Providers should ensure they have plenty of bottled water on hand for residents until this advisory has been lifted. Providers should also use bottled water for any wound care until restrictions have been lifted.

**EPA Frequently asked questions Link:**

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-11/documents/harmful\\_algal\\_blooms\\_and\\_cyanotoxins\\_frequently\\_asked\\_questions.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-11/documents/harmful_algal_blooms_and_cyanotoxins_frequently_asked_questions.pdf)

As a reminder for Community Based Care providers the following rules are related to emergency planning:

411-054-0093 Emergency and Disaster planning

(1) The facility must prepare and maintain a written emergency preparedness plan in accordance with the OFC.

(2)(C) Prolonged power failure, water, and sewer loss;

(2)(c) Include provisions and supplies sufficient to shelter in place for a minimum of three days without electricity, running water, or replacement staff.

Relevant Nursing Facility OARs regarding Emergency and Disaster Planning and response: [411-086-0320](http://411-086-0320).

For general information contact the DHS Safety, Oversight, and Quality or visit the DHS Web site at [www.oregon.gov/DHS](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS) -

To contact Nursing Facility Licensing Unit directly please email:

**[NF.Licensing@state.or.us](mailto:NF.Licensing@state.or.us)**.

For Community Based Care questions please email us at [CBC.Team@state.or.us](mailto:CBC.Team@state.or.us)