

## DRINKING WATER ADVISORY

### DO NOT DRINK THE TAP WATER – [DATE ISSUED] [CYANOTOXIN NAME] IS PRESENT IN [WATER SYSTEM NAME]

#### WHY IS THERE AN ADVISORY?

- [Cyanotoxin name], a toxin produced by cyanobacteria, was detected in the drinking water from [system name] on [date results received].
- Samples collected on [dates] from fully treated water at [location/entry point to the distribution system] show [cyanotoxin name] in the drinking water at [levels and/or ranges] micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). These results are above Oregon's [cyanotoxin name] drinking water health advisory level of [level]  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .
- Drinking water containing [cyanotoxin name] at levels exceeding the drinking water health advisory level can put you at risk of various adverse health effects. *Consuming water containing concentrations of cyanotoxins over the health advisory level for more than 10 days may result in upset stomach, diarrhea, vomiting, as well as liver or kidney damage. Seek medical attention if you or your family members experience illness.*

#### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Do not drink the tap water.
- [Alternative sources of water] should be used for drinking, making infant formula, making ice, and preparing food and beverages.
- Do not boil the tap water. Boiling the water will not destroy toxins and may increase toxin levels.
- Everyone may use tap water for showering, bathing, washing hands, washing dishes, flushing toilets, cleaning and doing laundry. However, infants and children younger than 6 should be supervised while bathing and during other tap water-related activities to prevent accidental ingestion of water.
- Animals may be vulnerable to adverse health effects of [cyanotoxin name] at the levels indicated above; consider providing alternative sources of water for animals. Contact a veterinarian if animals show signs of illness.
- If you, your family members or your animals have experienced adverse cyanotoxin-related health effects, contact [state or local health department] to report the illness.

#### WHAT IS BEING DONE?

- [System name] is working closely with local and state public health and emergency response agencies to address the situation and quickly reduce [cyanotoxin name] levels in tap water.
- [System name] is taking the following actions to reduce [cyanotoxin name] levels: [list actions such as adjusting treatment, changing source, etc.].
- [System name] will post an updated advisory when the [cyanotoxin] levels are less than or equal to the drinking water health advisory level and this do-not-drink advisory is lifted, or if there are any changes to the conditions of this do-not-drink advisory.
- For more information, contact [contact information] or visit [website].

*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, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand.*

This notice is being sent to you by [water system name].

State Water System ID#: 41

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

# Instructions for Cyanotoxins Above Health Advisory Level Public Notice

## Template on Reverse

If any cyanotoxin concentration from an entry point confirmation sample exceeds any health advisory level, the water supplier and any suppliers that purchase water from that system must issue a health advisory as soon as possible stating that the water is not safe to drink for the applicable populations per OAR 333-061-0530, but no later than 24 hours of receipt of results.

The water supplier must provide notice to persons served by the water system using one or more of the following forms of delivery, upon approval by the Authority:

- Appropriate broadcast media such as radio, television, and social media
- Posting of the notice in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system
- Hand delivery of the notice to persons served by the water system
- Another delivery method approved in writing by the Authority

The public notification must include, at a minimum, the cyanotoxin and health advisory level exceeded, the sample collection dates, dates results were received, locations of the samples, persons affected, and the standard health effects language in OAR 333-061-0570(6).

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. If you are posting the notice, you may wish to modify the words, but you must include all health effects language.

## Corrective Action

Your notice should describe the corrective actions you are taking. Do not use overly technical terminology when describing treatment methods. Some steps commonly taken by water systems affected by harmful algal blooms and associated toxins are listed below. You may use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We are working with [local/state agency] to evaluate the water supply and are researching options to correct the problem. These options may include treating the water to remove the toxin or connecting to [system]'s water supply.
- We are adjusting our treatment to more successfully mitigate for the presence of cyanotoxins and will do daily testing until toxin levels are below the acute health advisory levels.
- We have stopped using the contaminated drinking water source. We have increased pumping from other drinking water sources.
- We have since taken samples at [this location] and had them tested. They show that [results].

## Repeat Notices

If this is an ongoing situation and/or you fluctuate above and below the advisory level, you should give the history behind the situation including the contamination source, if known. List the date of the initial detection, as well as how levels have changed over time. If levels change as a result of treatment, you can include this information.

## After Issuing the Notice

Send a copy of the public notice and a certification that you have met all public notification requirements within ten days after issuing the notice to your primacy agency.