**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

Microcystin is present in [name] water system

DO NOT USE THE WATER

Microcystin, a compound produced by blue-green algae, has been detected in the treated drinking water from [name] water system. A sample collected on [date] shows microcystin at [level] micrograms/liter (μg/L). The Iowa DNR recommends that you do not use the water at microcystin levels above 20 μg/L.

**What should I do?**

* **DO NOT USE THE WATER. Alternative water should be used for drinking (including pets), making infant formula, making ice, brushing teeth, preparing food, bathing/showering, washing hands, washing dishes or doing laundry.** If an alternate source of water is not available for washing dishes or doing laundry, providing a final rinse with uncontaminated water is recommended. If people or pets come into contact with water, promptly shower or rinse off in uncontaminated water. Skin irritation such as a rash may occur from exposure when bathing and washing hands.
* **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling the water will not destroy microcystin and it may become more concentrated as a result of boiling.
* You may use the water for flushing toilets.
* Consuming water containing microcystin may result in abnormal liver function, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, numbness or dizziness. Seek medical attention if you are experiencing any of these symptoms. Skin contact with contaminated water can cause irritation or rashes. Contact a veterinarian immediately if pets or livestock show signs of illness.

**What happened? What is being done?**

[Water body name], which is a source of drinking water for the [public water system], is experiencing a harmful algal bloom (HAB).

XXX water system is making adjustments to its treatment processes *(this may need to be modified based on water system capability)* to help reduce microcystin levels. We are working closely with local and state public health and emergency response agencies to address and resolve the situation. We will keep you informed as the situation is resolved.

For more information, please contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_at\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Additional information about harmful algal blooms can be found at ***www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/cyanohabs***.

*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 or mail.*

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