**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

Microcystin is present in [name] water system

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). U.S. EPA has established a national health advisory level for bottle-fed infants and children younger than age 6 based on drinking water for 10 days. The Iowa DNR recommends that bottle-fed infants and children younger than age 6 do not drink the water at microcystin levels above 0.3 μg/L.

**What should I do?**

* **THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT DRINK THE WATER: Bottle-fed infants and children younger than age 6, pregnant women, nursing mothers, those with pre-existing liver conditions, and those receiving dialysis treatment. These individuals may be more susceptible than the general population to the health effects of microcystins. Alternative water should be used for drinking, making infant formula, making ice, brushing teeth, and preparing food.**
* **As a precautionary measure, the elderly and immune-compromised individuals may want to consider using an alternate water source for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth and preparing food.**
* **Children aged 6 or above and adults not in the categories listed above may drink the water.** Healthy school age children and adults may use the water for all uses including bathing, washing hands, washing dishes and doing laundry. The water may be used for flushing toilets.
* Bottle fed infants and children younger than age 6 must be supervised while bathing to prevent accidental ingestion of water. Providing a final rinse of skin with uncontaminated water is recommended for people with open wounds or skin conditions such as eczema.
* **Do not boil the water.** Boiling the water will not destroy microcystin and it may become more concentrated as a result of boiling.
* Consuming water containing microcystin at the detected level may result in abnormal liver function, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, numbness or dizziness in this population. Seek medical attention if your child is experiencing any of these symptoms.
* 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 [drinking 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 anyone who drinks 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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