

Notification Templates for Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms at Public Water Supplies

Required Notification: Health Advisory Exceedance
(Microcystin detection > 0.3 micrograms per liter)

[Specify Health Department] Recommends Do Not Drink: Blue-green Algae Toxin Detected in **[Specify Municipality's]** Water Above Health Advisory Value

The **[Local Health Department Name]** recommends that all consumers of **[Specify Municipality's]** Public Water Supply use an alternate source of water for drinking, cooking, making infant formula, making ice, and preparing food and beverages until further notice. The water is acceptable for other household uses, such as bathing, washing hands, washing dishes, flushing toilets, and cleaning. Boiling water and in-home treatment will not remove the blue-green algae or their toxins.

Samples collected by the **[Specify Municipality's]** Public Water Supply show a blue-green algae toxin called microcystin was detected in the drinking water delivered to consumers. Microcystin entered the supply due to blue-green algae blooms occurring in **[Waterbody Name]**, which is the source water for **[Specify Municipality's]** Public Water Supply.

Sampling on **[Insert Date]** and **[Insert Date]** confirmed that the level of microcystins was **[Insert Level]** micrograms per liter. This level is higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 10-day Health Advisory level of 0.3 micrograms per liter of microcystins for bottle fed infants and children under 6 years old.

The **[Specify Municipality's]** Public Water Supply is working with the **[Local Health Department Name]** and the NYS Department of Health. We will notify consumers when the Health Advisory is discontinued and the water is suitable for all household uses.

Additional information can be found at **[Insert Link]**. Information about blue-green algae and related toxins can be found at www.health.ny.gov/HarmfulAlgae.

People and animals should always take steps to stay away from any blooms in surface waters because contact can make people and animals sick.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact **[Specify Contact]** at **[Insert Phone Number]**.

Required Notification: Health Advisory Discontinued
(Microcystin no longer detected in finished water)

[Specify Health Department] Discontinues Do Not Drink Advice for [Specify Municipality's] Drinking Water

The Do Not Drink Advice for the [Specify Municipality's] Public Water Supply is discontinued. Sampling on [Insert Date] and [Insert Date] confirmed that the blue-green algae toxin microcystin no longer exceeds the Health Advisory level in water delivered to consumers of the [Specify Municipality's] Public Water Supply. The water is acceptable for drinking, food preparation and all other household uses.

The [Specify Municipality's] Public Water Supply is working with the [Local Health Department Name] and the NYS Department of Health. We will continue to monitor the public water supplies and additional samples will be collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis to confirm that microcystin levels consistently remain below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 10-day Health Advisory level of 0.3 micrograms per liter of microcystins for bottle fed infants and children under 6 years old in drinking water delivered to consumers.

Additional information can be found at [Insert Link]. Information about blue-green algae and related toxins can be found at www.health.ny.gov/HarmfulAlgae.

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If you have any questions or concerns please contact [Specify Contact] at [Insert Phone Number].

Notification 1

(Microcystin detected in treated water > non-detect but < Health Advisory 0.3 micrograms per liter)

Low Levels of Blue-green Algae Toxin Detected in [Specify Municipality's] Water: Water Acceptable for All Uses

Samples collected by your water supplier reported extremely low levels of a blue-green algae toxin called microcystin in drinking water delivered to consumers. The levels in drinking water are below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 10-day Health Advisory levels of 0.3 micrograms per liter of microcystins for bottle fed infants and children under 6 years old. Your water remains acceptable for drinking, food preparation and all household uses.

Microcystins entered the supply due to blue-green algae blooms occurring in [Waterbody Name], which is the source water for [Specify Municipality]'s water supply.

The [Specify Municipality's] Public Water Supply is working with the [Local Health Department Name] and the NYS Department of Health. We will continue to monitor the public water supplies. Additional samples will be collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis to confirm that microcystin levels consistently remain below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 10-day Health Advisory level of 0.3 micrograms per liter of microcystins for bottle fed infants and children under 6 years old in drinking water delivered to consumers.

Additional information can be found at [Insert Link]. Information about blue-green algae and related toxins can be found at www.health.ny.gov/HarmfulAlgae.

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If you have any questions or concerns please contact [Specify Contact] at [Insert Phone Number].

Notification 2

(Microcystin not detected in treated water, Raw Water >0.3 micrograms per liter of microcystins)

Blue-green Algae Toxin Detected in [Waterbody Name] Near Drinking Water Intake for [Specify Municipality's] Drinking Water: No Toxin Detected in Water Delivered to Consumers

We are notifying consumers because the blue-green algae toxin microcystin was detected in the untreated water entering the [Specify Municipality's] drinking water treatment plant. No microcystins were detected in the treated drinking water delivered to customers. Your water remains acceptable for drinking, food preparation and all household uses.

Microcystins were detected at the drinking water intake due to blue-green algae blooms occurring in [Waterbody Name], which is the source water for [Specify Municipality's] Public Water Supply. The level of microcystins was reported at [Insert level] micrograms per liter.

The [Specify Municipality's] Public Water Supply is working with the [Local Health Department Name] and the NYS Department of Health. We will continue to monitor the public water supplies. Additional samples will be collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis to confirm that microcystin levels consistently remain below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 10-day Health Advisory level of 0.3 micrograms per liter of microcystins for bottle fed infants and children under 6 years old in drinking water delivered to consumers.

Additional information can be found at [Insert Link]. Information about blue-green algae and related toxins can be found at www.health.ny.gov/HarmfulAlgae.

People and animals should always take steps to stay away from any blooms in surface waters because contact can make people and animals sick.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact [Specify Contact] at [Insert Phone Number].