**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

Microcystin is present in [name] water system

DO NOT DRINK 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). U.S. EPA has established a national health advisory level based on drinking water for 10 days. The Iowa DNR recommends that you do not drink the water at microcystin levels above 1.6 μg/L.

**What should I do?**

* **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER. Alternative water should be used for drinking, making infant formula, making ice, brushing teeth, and preparing food.**
* Healthy adults may use the water for 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 may result in abnormal liver function, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, numbness or dizziness. Seek medical attention if you are experiencing any of these symptoms.
* Pets should not drink the water. 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 with 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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