



Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Public Health Director
Cayuga County Health Department
8 Dill St.
Auburn, NY 13021



For Immediate Release: Thursday, September 22, 2022

HABs Toxin Results in the City of Auburn's and the Town of Owasco's Water Treatment Plants

The Cayuga County Health Department would like to inform the public of the results of samples taken this morning at both the City of Auburn's and Town of Owasco's water treatment plants.

The City of Auburn's level of toxins detected measured 9.89 parts per billion. The Town of Owasco's level of toxins remained consistent at 0.31 parts per billion. **No toxins were detected in the samples taken of the treated drinking water from either system.** The treatment systems designed and installed for the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco continue to remove these toxins and **the public water remains safe to drink.**

As we reported yesterday, September 21, 2022, high level of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms were detected in the City of Auburn's raw water entering their water treatment plants from samples collected on September 20, 2022. The level of toxins detected measured 17.7 parts per billion. This was an unprecedented level of toxins detected. Low levels of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms had been detected in the Town of Owasco's raw water entering their water treatment plants from samples collected on September 20, 2022.

It is important to note that the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco have two separate intake pipes located in two different spots of Owasco Lake. As a reminder, the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco have been monitoring their drinking water for harmful algal blooms since early August and will continue to do so. The Cayuga County Health Department will continue to stay in communication with our partners at the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco to monitor this situation.

The City of Auburn provides drinking water to residents in the City of Auburn, the Towns of Aurelius, Fleming Water District 6, Throop, Mentz, Brutus, Montezuma, Sennett, Springport Water District 2, and the Villages of Port Byron, Weedsport, and Cayuga. The Town of Owasco provides drinking water to residents in the Town of Owasco and the Fleming Consolidated Water District.

Now is a good time to make sure you and your family have enough water stored in case there was a water emergency. We are promoting the importance of having in storage 1 gallon of clean water for each person per day in your home. It is also recommended to have a minimum of a three-day supply stored in your home. A reminder:

- You do not need to go out and buy bottled water. You may bottle up public drinking water from your faucet.



**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Public Health Director
Cayuga County Health Department
8 Dill St.
Auburn, NY 13021**



- If bottling your public drinking water, it is important to use only clean, food grade plastic or glass containers that seal tightly and replace your supply every six months.
- If using store-bought water, please be mindful that the New York State Department Health Department certification is on the product label.
- All bottled water should be stored in a cool location away from direct sunlight.

Sample results can be found by clicking on the Harmful Algal Blooms button on our homepage at www.cayugacounty.us/health. If you have any further questions, please call the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1560.
