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For Immediate Release: Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Low Levels of Toxins Detected in The City of Auburn's Raw Water

Results from samples collected on Monday, August 16, 2021 from the City of Auburn's raw water have been received and reveal low levels of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms in the raw (untreated) water entering the City of Auburn's treatment plant from Owasco Lake. The treatment system at the City of Auburn successfully removed the toxins and **no toxins were detected in the samples taken of the treated drinking water.**

- Low levels of toxins are being referred to as such a small amount of toxins that the laboratory could detect them, but could not give a numeric value.

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 also uses Owasco Lake water for drinking water purposes. Results from samples collected on Monday, August 16, 2021 of both the raw (untreated) water and the treated drinking water have been received and no toxins were detected in either sample. The Town of Owasco provides drinking water to residents in the Towns of Owasco and Fleming.

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. 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. In the future, we will not routinely issue press releases should samples reveal low levels of toxins in the raw water; however, **the public will be informed in the event that low levels of toxins are found in the public drinking water.**

All sampling results will be posted on the Health Department's website under the Harmful Algal Blooms tab, www.cayugacounty.us/health

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 in your home. It is also recommended to have a minimum of a three day supply stored in your home. **See the attached flyer for more information.** A reminder:

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

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.



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- If using store-bought water, please make sure 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.

More information regarding harmful algae blooms can be found at www.cayugacounty.us/health. Any questions or to report any symptoms you think may be related to exposure to harmful algal blooms contact the Cayuga County Health Department at (315) 253-1560.
