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For Immediate Release: Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Be Prepared for Harmful Algal Blooms

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) have been reported on Owasco Lake this summer. Owasco Lake is the source of drinking water for the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco. 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 water operators at both of the treatment plants routinely monitor for the presence of algae in the water entering the plant and will continue to do so. If the presence of algae is identified entering the treatment plant, samples of the water entering the plant and the treated drinking water will be collected to test for toxins associated with Harmful Algal Blooms.

The City of Auburn and Town of Owasco are both operating their carbon treatment systems at the present time. Samples will be taken periodically and results will be posted on our website. If toxin levels exceeding normal limits are detected in the treated drinking water the public will be notified.

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.
- 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.

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.
