

## FACT SHEET Cyanotoxins

- Beaver Water District has an active cyanotoxin monitoring program and response plan to ensure public safety in the event that cyanotoxins are detected in our drinking water.
- Cyanobacteria are naturally found in lakes, rivers, and other surface waters but when certain conditions exist, they can form Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Some HABs can produce cyanotoxins, which can be harmful to humans and animals.<sup>1</sup>
- **Health effects of cyanotoxins** include gastroenteritis and possible liver and kidney damage. Dermal exposure can lead to a skin rash or other allergic reactions with hay-fever like symptoms.<sup>2</sup>
- **Exposure** to cyanotoxins can occur through drinking water, ingestion of contaminated food, inhalation and dermal contact while bathing, and during recreational activities.<sup>2</sup>
- Regulatory limits have not been established for cyanotoxins; however, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued Health Advisories for two classes of cyanotoxins: Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin.<sup>1, 2</sup>

10-Day Health Advisory ( <i>Risk if exposed to advisory level for 10 days</i> )	Level
<b>Microcystins</b>	
Children under 6 years old (plus sensitive populations- pregnant women, elderly etc.)	0.3 µg/L
Adults and children over 6 years old	1.6 µg/L
<b>Cylindrospermopsin</b>	
Children under 6 years old (plus sensitive populations- pregnant women, elderly etc.)	0.7 µg/L
Adults and children over 6 years old	3.0 µg/L

- **Beaver Water District is proactive in reducing nutrient pollution** to protect our drinking water source, Beaver Lake. Reducing the nutrient load will help prevent the formation of Harmful Algal Blooms and decrease the chance of cyanotoxins being released into the lake.
- **You can help reduce nutrients in our drinking water source** by using phosphate-free detergents, properly disposing of pet waste, and limiting the use of fertilizers. For more prevention activities, go to <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/what-you-can-do>

<sup>1</sup> [EPA Frequently Asked Questions- HABs and Cyanotoxins](#)

<sup>2</sup> [EPA Cyanotoxin Fact Sheet and Health Advisory](#)

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### About Beaver Water District

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. The District's mission is to sustainably provide our customers with safe, economical drinking water. For more information, visit [www.bwdh2o.org](http://www.bwdh2o.org).