



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
NEWS RELEASE
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John R. Kasich, Governor

Emergency Management Agency
2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

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Emergency Declaration Expanded to Include Fulton Co.

Algae Contaminant found in water system in Toledo

COLUMBUS – Gov. John R. Kasich’s declaration earlier today of a state emergency for Lucas and Wood counties has been expanded to include Fulton County since some of the county’s residents receive water service from the Toledo water system.

City of Toledo officials have found evidence of an algae contaminant in the public water system and have advised residents not to drink the water.

The governor’s declaration allows state government to maximize the use of its resources to support local authorities in addressing this situation. The state Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was activated earlier today.

State and local officials are working together to arrange for drinking water to be shipped into the affected areas. The following are recommendations for residents who receive water service through the Toledo water system:

- Do not drink the water. Alternative water should be used for drinking, making infant formula, making ice, brushing teeth and preparing food.
- Do not boil the water. Boiling the water will not destroy the contaminants.
- Do not let pets or livestock drink the water.
- Do not let children bathe in the water since they may accidentally ingest it.
- Hand washing is allowed.
- Showering is allowed for adults.

The contaminant Microcystin is a product of blue-green algae and is naturally found in Ohio lakes, ponds and slow-moving streams. The health effects could result in numbness and dizziness, nausea, vomiting, abnormal liver function, skin irritation or rashes. Contact your veterinarian immediately if pets or livestock show illness.

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