



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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For more information, contact Water
Bureau Public Information Officer at
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***Cryptosporidium* Detected In Bull Run Drinking Water**

This low-level detection follows similar detections earlier this year

The Portland Water Bureau received results today that *Cryptosporidium*, a potentially disease-causing microorganism, was detected in a water sample collected Wednesday, Oct. 18. The detection was from a sample collected from the Bull Run Watershed intake as part of ongoing monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*. One oocyst was detected in the 10-liter sample. This detection follows other low-level detections from January through March and again in September of this year. The bureau continues to use the Bull Run as its primary source of drinking water.

Exposure to *Cryptosporidium* can cause cryptosporidiosis, a serious illness. Symptoms can include diarrhea, vomiting, fever and stomach pain. People with healthy immune systems recover without medical treatment. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), people with severely weakened immune systems are at risk for more serious disease. Symptoms may be more severe and could lead to serious or life-threatening illness. Examples of people with weakened immune systems include those with AIDS; those with inherited diseases that affect the immune system; and cancer and transplant patients who are taking certain immunosuppressive drugs.

EPA has estimated that a small percentage of the population could experience gastro-intestinal illness from *Cryptosporidium* and advises that customers who are immunocompromised and receive their drinking water from the Bull Run Watershed consult with their healthcare professional about the safety of drinking the tap water. To learn if your drinking water comes from Bull Run, please contact your local drinking water provider.

Public health surveillance during and after a similar series of low-level detections from January through March of this year did not see an increase in *Cryptosporidium*-related illness. The general public is not advised to take additional precautions.

The public and the media are encouraged to view all sampling results posted to the City's website at www.portlandoregon.gov/water/cryptoresults.

Customers with questions regarding water quality can call the Water Line at 503-823-7525.