



MEDIA RELEASE

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For more information, contact Water
Bureau Public Information Officer at
503-823-8064

***Cryptosporidium* Monitoring Update**

Additional detections from the Bull Run. Monitoring and coordination with health officials continues.

The Portland Water Bureau received results today that *Cryptosporidium*, a potentially disease-causing microorganism, was detected in a water sample collected Sunday, Oct. 22. The detection was from the Bull Run Watershed intake as part of ongoing monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*. Three oocysts were detected from a total of 50 liters of water. This detection follows a previous detection on Oct. 18. There were also a series of 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. The Portland Water Bureau and

Burlington, City of Gresham, City of Sandy, City of Tualatin, Green Valley, GNR, Hideaway Hills, Lake Grove, Lorna Portland Water, Lusted, Palatine Hill, Pleasant Home, Raleigh, Rockwood, Skyview Acres, Tualatin Valley, Two Rivers, Valley View and West Slope Water Districts receive all or part of their drinking water supply from the Bull Run. 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. The media will also be notified of any further low-level detections on at least a weekly basis, if they occur. The bureau will notify the media and public immediately should further test results indicate a risk to public health and precautions are necessary.

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