

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Dec. 13, 2019

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

***Cryptosporidium* Monitoring Update**

Detections from routine monitoring in the Bull Run. Customers do not need to take any additional precautions at this time.

Since 2017, the Portland Water Bureau has detected low levels of *Cryptosporidium* from routine monitoring. Monitoring results were received from the Bull Run Watershed intake for *Cryptosporidium*, a potentially disease-causing microorganism. In the 50-liters sampled daily, between Sunday, Dec. 8 and Wednesday, Dec. 11, one *Cryptosporidium* oocyst was detected in each of the samples collected on Dec. 8 and Dec. 9. *Cryptosporidium* was not detected in the samples collected on Dec. 10 or Dec. 11. Prior to these detections, *Cryptosporidium* was last detected from the Bull Run Watershed intake on Dec. 4, 2019.

The Bull Run watershed is Portland's primary source of drinking water. The Portland Water Bureau does not currently treat for *Cryptosporidium*, but is required to do so under drinking water regulations. Portland is working to install filtration by September 2027 under a compliance schedule with Oregon Health Authority. In the meantime, Portland Water Bureau is implementing interim measures such as watershed protection and additional monitoring to protect public health. Consultation with public health officials has concluded that at this time, customers do not need to take any additional precautions.

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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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.

The Environmental Protection Agency (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 Domestic 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.

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