Minnesota Department of Health

# Template: Consumer Confidence Reports DRINKING WATER RISK COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT

## How to use this document

This document includes example text to inform consumers about investigatory monitoring results in Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs). Although it is not required to include contaminants detected during investigatory monitoring in your CCR, MDH recommends that you include them. You can select appropriate text based on whether sampling results found:

* Detection of contaminants without health-based guidance values
* Detection of contaminants at or below health-based guidance values
* Detection of contaminants above health-based guidance values
* Any combination of the above.

If a contaminant is detected in drinking water but it is at/below the health-based guidance value or does not have a health-based guidance value, MDH recommends the public water system (PWS) include information about the detection in its next annual CCR.

If contaminants are detected above health-based guidance values, MDH suggests you consider providing information to your customers after four quarters of monitoring or in the next CCR.

If monitoring is required (e.g. Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule), the PWS is required to add information about detections to its next annual CCR.

If you have any questions about including monitoring results in your CCR, contact your District Engineer.

## Instructions and example language

For unregulated contaminants detected in sampling, insert the contaminant name, information and test results in the text where indicated. Include relevant resources or contact information as needed. Contact MDH with any questions or for assistance.

### Include background information about unregulated contaminants

#### Example language:

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

### Select and adapt text based on sampling results

#### Example language for detects for contaminant(s) without health-based guidance values:

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human health-based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

[Contaminant name] was detected in the samples. [SENTENCE ABOUT CONTAMINANT – what it is, how it gets in water, etc.]

There are no health-based guidance values for [contaminant] in drinking water. This is an area of active research, and scientists at MDH and EPA have not yet determined whether [contaminant] in drinking water poses a health concern at the levels detected. As we learn more about [contaminant] over time, we will let you know.

Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

#### Example language for detects for contaminant(s) at or below health-based guidance values:

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human health-based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

[Contaminant name] was detected at a level below its comparison value. A person drinking water at or below the comparison value would have little or no risk for health effects.

[SENTENCE ABOUT CONTAMINANT – what it is, how it gets in water, etc.] More information about [contaminant] is available on the MDH webpage [Website Name (URL)].

Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

#### Example language for detects for contaminant(s) above health-based guidance values:

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human health-based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

[Contaminant name] was detected at a level above its comparison value. [SENTENCE ABOUT CONTAMINANT – what it is, how it gets in water, etc.] [People who drink water with [contaminant name] above the comparison value are at risk of [health effects information]]. More information is available on the MDH webpage [Website Name (URL)].

In our [previous letter to customers or other past notification], we recommended [actions for customers or vulnerable populations.] Please [contact individual or refer to resource] for more information.

Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time. As we learn more about [contaminant] over time, we will let you know.

### Fill out table based on contaminants detected

**Unregulated Contaminants – Tested in drinking water**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Contaminant | Comparison Value | Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-4700.