



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE  

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**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**BUREAU OF LABORATORIES**

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**IDAHO DRINKING WATER LABORATORY NETWORK LAB ADVISORY**

February 12, 2016

**NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR DRINKING WATER LABORATORIES**

The Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program was informed this week by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Drinking Water Program that several Idaho drinking water laboratories failed to appropriately notify regulators of maximum contamination level (MCL) exceedances. Specifically, DEQ provided evidence that at least four Idaho laboratories failed to meet notification requirements for lead and copper MCL exceedances or action levels. Upon review of the laboratory reports in question, IBL recognized that one lab also failed to identify a subcontract laboratory on their regulatory report.

The purpose of this lab advisory is to remind drinking water laboratories of their obligation to notify regulators when elevated levels of regulated contaminants are detected in public water system (PWS) compliance samples. The “State of Idaho Drinking Water Certification Program” rules (IDAPA [16.02.13](#)) require certified laboratories to notify the appropriate PWS regulatory agency by phone of any regulated contaminant concentration that exceeds four times the MCL as soon as possible. Additionally, all subcontracted compliance sample final reports must provide both the name and EPA identification number of the laboratory that conducted the analysis.

In light of this report from DEQ, please take a moment to review the notification and reporting requirements in rule (sections 103 and 130) and remind drinking water analytical staff about their legal obligations to notify regulatory agencies. Please contact IBL at 208-334-2235 if you have any questions about this DEQ report or lab advisory.

**Message Categories**

**Lab Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Lab Advisory:** important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Lab Update:** updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.