

# Boil Water Notice – Residential Care and Hospitals

## Special Precautions That Need To Be Taken In Residential Care Facilities and Hospitals During A Boil Water Advisory

### What Is The Reason For This Advisory?

The boil water advisory is a precautionary advisory resulting from *E.coli* detected in water sample(s) collected from the drinking water system supplying your facility. Immediately secure and use a potable supply of drinking water. A potable supply includes using bottled water and/or boiling the water.

### Boiling Information:

Bring water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute. Cool and store the water in food grade containers. The flat taste of the boiled water can be improved by pouring it back and forth from one container to another and/or allowing it to stand for a few hours. Caution should always be exercised when handling boiling water to minimize the risk of burns.

### Additional Information:

- Boil all water used for: drinking, making juice, making ice, washing ready to eat fruits and vegetables. This also includes water used for brushing teeth or ice made with regular tap water.
- Disconnect drinking water fountains and beverage dispensers.
- Discard ready to eat food that was prepared with water that was not boiled and/or not from a bottled water source.
- Use bottled, boiled or another approved, potable water source.
- Only use potable water for brushing teeth.
- Household dishwashers are generally safe to use as long as the dishwasher reaches a final rinse temperature of 45 degree Celsius, 150 Fahrenheit.
- Water can be utilized for sanitation purposes such as hand washing and toilet flushing.
- Posting signs at the entrance to the facility and at faucets as a useful reminder for occupants and visitors.
- Consider if any equipment connected to the water system should be evaluated by the facility departments for their safe use.
- Showering with untreated water is safe, as long as no water is swallowed.
- Use hand sanitizer after washing your hands.

### Commercial Dishwashing Machines

If your dishwasher has a hot setting, (65 degrees Celsius or higher) it safely disinfects dishes. If your dishwasher does not have a hot setting, after finishing the cycle, soak dishes for 1 minute in a solution of 1 oz (30 ml) of bleach mixed with 3 gallons of lukewarm water (13.5 litres). Let dishes air dry.

### Washing By Hand

Dishes washed in soap and hot water can also be rinsed in boiled water or disinfected with the following bleach solution. Mix 1 oz (30 ml) of bleach mixed with 3 gallons of lukewarm water (13.5 litres). Let dishes air dry.

### What To Do After The Boil Water Advisory Is Lifted

A public announcement will be made when the boil water notice has been lifted. As equipment connected to water lines may have been contaminated you must take certain actions this includes:

- Run cold water faucets and drinking water fountains for 1 minute.
- Flush all pieces of equipment, or fixtures, connected to the water lines for 1 minute.
- Drain and refill hot water heaters.
- Drain and flush pressure tanks (if applicable).
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle (if applicable).
- Flush ice machines. Disconnect the water line from the ice machine and flush the line for 1 minute. Replace any in-line filters then reconnect the machine to the water line; make ice for 1 hour and dispose of the ice. Clean and sanitize surfaces that come into contact with water and ice.

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For more information please call the

Drinking Water Line:

**604-870-7906**