



Boil Water Advisory Infection Control

Approval Date: June 1991
Approval Authority: Senior Leadership Team
Effective Date: June 1991
Revision Date/s: April 30, 2015, January 31, 2014, November 17, 2015
December 15, 2016, May 3, 2018, March 24, 2022, May 19,
2022, March 23, 2023, February 23, 2024, March 29, 2025

Purpose:

To use water safely during a “boil water advisory”.

Reasons for a boil water advisory:

1. A boil water advisory is based on information other than bacteriological examination indicating that the water is not safe to drink (e.g. the lack or absence of disinfection residual in the drinking water).
2. A boil water advisory may be based on bacteriological (microbial) examination, including the finding of bacteria or parasites.
3. A boil water advisory may follow the occurrence of an outbreak of illness in the community that has been linked to consumption of the water.

The extent of restriction on water use depends on the situation and the reason for issuing a boil water advisory. Always follow the health unit’s recommendations on water use.

Procedure:

1. The Public Health Department alerts the Long-Term Care Home / public that the water in the Municipality is contaminated and a “Boil Water Advisory” is in force until further notice.
2. All departments are notified via e-mail regarding the “Boil Water Advisory”.
3. The Nursing/Program Department will notify the Residents/POAs regarding the “Boil Water Advisory”.
4. A Boil Advisory Alert notice will be placed at the reentrance of the home to alert visitors.

The Facilities Services Department will:

1. Shut off water to sinks or remove tap handles.
2. Obtain supplies of drinking water from other sources. (ex: bottled water)

The Nutritional Services Department will:

1. Boil water used for cooking. Water used for soups, porridge, stew, etc. must come to a full rolling boil for approximately 3 minutes. The water should reach a temperature of 100⁰ C or 212⁰ F.
2. Canned juices will be used in place of juice machines.
3. Ice machines will be shut down for use. **“DO NOT USE”** signs to be placed on machines. All ice made previously is discarded and the ice machine is disinfected.
4. Use milk in recipes, where appropriate.
5. Steam food as much as possible in STEAMER.
6. Bottled water/boiled water to be used to clean vegetables, to mix juice crystals and as drinking water for staff and Residents.
7. Dishes may be washed in the dishwasher if final rinse temperature reaches 180 degrees F or above.
8. Pots may be washed as normal. Ensure the sanitizer “bleaching system” is used. Ensure water is changed frequently. Let pots air dry.
9. Coffee/tea machines will be shut down for use “DO NOT USE” signs to be placed on machines. Boiled water or bottled water will be used to prepare instant coffee and tea.
10. Counter tops/chopping boards should be washed with soap and bottled water first then disinfected with a bleach solution of ¼ cup (approximately 60ml) bleach in 1 gallon (4.5L) of water. Do not reuse or store this solution, make it fresh as needed.

The Laundry Department will:

- Continue to wash as per guidelines.

The Nursing Department will:

1. Follow guidelines specific to Public Health orders.
2. Obtain boiled water from dietary for washing/bathing purposes, if necessary. Adults can bath/shower in untreated water. Avoid face and/or swallowing water. Sponge bath as needed.
3. Obtain boiled/bottled water for drinking purposes.
4. Obtain boiled/bottled water for brushing Resident’s teeth/oral care.

5. Contact all Residents and/or POAs to notify of activation of emergency plan and at the end of the emergency.

Hand Hygiene

For hand hygiene, antimicrobial products that do not require water (e.g. alcohol-based hand rubs) can be used until the boil water notice is cancelled. If hands are visible contaminated, bottled water and soap should be used for handwashing; if bottle water is not immediately available, an antiseptic towelette should be used.

If the boil water advisory has been issued because of an outbreak, water can be used for handwashing after the emergency water treatment: Place 1.5oz (about 45ml) liquid household bleach in 10 gallons (45L) water. Mix and let stand for 10 minutes prior to use.

Note

*All water that has a chance of being ingested should be boiled and/or use bottled water.

After “Boil Water Advisory” is lifted:

- An email will be sent out to notify all departments of the public health “safe to use” order that has been issued.
- Run cold water faucets for 2-3 minutes before using water.
- Drain and refill hot water heaters set below 45° C.
- Drain and flush all ice-making machines.
- Flush all garden hoses by running cold water through them for 1 minute.
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.

Staff/Residents/Students/Volunteers will be debriefed following the end of the emergency.

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually, and within 30 days of the emergency being declared over. When the emergency plan is activated.

This emergency policy/plan will be tested annually. A written record of the testing and date will be kept along with who participated and a record of any changes made to improve the plan.

This policy will be reviewed by the Resident Council, Family Council and Public Health as required.

This policy will be given with orientation to all new employees and reviewed annually via Surge Learning for all staff.

A copy of this policy is posted on the Norview Lodge Website and hard copies will be made available upon request.

This policy is also included in the Norview Lodge Emergency Manual