

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Boil Water Advisory	<b>SECTION:</b> Boil Water Advisory
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> July 2022	<b>REVISED:</b>  <b>REVIEWED:</b>
<b>LOCATION MAIN MANUAL (ORIGINAL):</b> Emergency Measures	<b>LOCATION SUBSIDIARY MANUALS (PHOTOCOPIES):</b>
<b>APPROVED BY:</b> Administration	

## PURPOSE

A boil water advisory is a notification that the drinking water supply may be contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms and that drinking the tap water can make residents, team members, and visitors sick. Boiling the tap water destroys pathogens and makes the water safe to drink and use.

## POLICY

### BOIL WATER ADVISORY IMPLEMENTATION

In the event of a boil water advisory, the location will use boiled water, bottled water, or water from another safe public supply not affected by the advisory, and will follow procedures as indicated for personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, and preparing food, including ensuring handwashing is followed by use of alcohol-based hand rub. The location will contact the Public Health Unit that issued the boil water advisory for more information as needed.

Do not use tap water to:

- Drink
- Prepare foods
- Make juice
- Make ice
- Wash fruits or vegetables
- Brush teeth
- Give to pets or animals in pet therapy programs



## PROCEDURE

The Administrator or designate will:

1. Ensure all team members, residents, families, and visitors are made aware of a boil water advisory in effect and when it is over.
2. Ensure alternate sources of water are provided to residents, team members, and visitors that is safe for drinking.

The Infection Prevention & Control Lead or designate will:

1. Post signage at entrance to the location and at all faucets, including the kitchen area, washrooms, and hand sinks, as a reminder that a boil water advisory is in effect and that the water is not safe to drink. See XVIII-O-10.00(d) Boil Water Advisory Signage.
2. Post signage advising team members, residents, and visitors to apply alcohol-based hand sanitizer (to be available in all washrooms and at all sinks) after normal handwashing procedures with warm tap water and paper towels.

The Maintenance Manager or designate will:

1. Disconnect all drinking water fountains, soda dispensers with post-mix service, and ice making machines from the affected water supply.
2. Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer, containing at least 70% alcohol, in all public and team member washrooms and at all standalone hand sinks.

The Support Services Manager or designate will:

1. Discard any ice and beverages that may have been prepared with the affected water supply and sanitize ice cube trays.
2. Direct team to prepare boiled water as needed:
  - a. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute.
  - b. Use an electric kettle if possible.
  - c. Only boil as much water as you can safely lift without spilling.
  - d. If boiling water on the stove, place the pot on the back burner.
  - e. Take all precautions as needed to avoid burns.
3. If providing bottled water, check with Public Health Unit about brands of bottled water or water dispensers considered to be safe / that are produced in locations not affected by the boil water advisory.



The Nursing team will:

1. Use boiled water that has been cooled to room temperature, or use sterile water, to wash broken skin and wounds and for other resident care activity (note: commercial bottled water is not sterile).
2. Consider using sterile bottled, boiled, or otherwise disinfected drinking water for severely compromised residents.
3. Discuss with physician/NP any special precautions that may be needed for residents with weakened immune systems.

### **WHEN THE BOIL WATER ADVISORY HAS ENDED**

The Environmental Services Team/Maintenance Manager will:

1. Flush all water-using fixtures and faucets by running them for five minutes (if your service connection is long or complex, consider flushing for a longer period of time).
  - a. In multi-storey buildings, begin on the top floor, flushing each fixture and faucet for five minutes. Once every fixture and faucet has been flushed for five minutes, proceed to the next floor below; continue the procedure until all fixtures and faucets on all floors are flushed.
2. Ensure equipment with water line connections, such as refrigerators and ice dispensers, are drained, flushed, cleaned, and disinfected according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

The Maintenance Manager or designate will:

1. Flush, drain, clean, and disinfect cisterns that contained the affected water source.
2. Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. Replace the filters on any water filtration devices, and flush the fixture according to manufacturer's directions.
4. Drain and refill hot water heaters that have been set below 45o C/110o

The Administrator or designate will:

1. Communicate to all team members, residents, and visitors that the Boil Water Advisory has ended.
2. Conduct a debrief with the team to review procedures and make any adjustments to site-specific practices/Emergency Management Plan as needed.





The Infection Prevention & Control Lead or designate will:

1. Remove signage.

---

**HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1N3  
[www.muskoka.on.ca](http://www.muskoka.on.ca) | [heathservices@muskoka.on.ca](mailto:heathservices@muskoka.on.ca)  
Phone: 705-645-2100 Toll-Free: 1-800-461-4210 (within 705)  
Fax: 705-645-5319

**FAIVERN LONG-TERM CARE HOME**

14 Mill Street, Huntsville, Ontario, P1H 2A4  
Phone: 705-789-6011  
Fax: 705-789-1371

