

SUBJECT: **Boil Water Advisory**
APPROVED BY: VP/COO Acute & Long Term Care _____
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2008 11
REVIEW/REVISED DATE:

Purpose:

To ensure that all Boil Water Advisories issued by Municipalities are received, disseminated with the Community Clinic as appropriate and acted upon so that safe water is available for patients, staff, clients, volunteers and visitors.

Policy/Standard:

As soon as notification of a boil water advisory is received by L-G Health, the notification will be disseminated and all appropriate precautions will be instituted.

A boil water advisory can only be removed by the Environmental Health Officer, Government Services Center or a Medical Officer of Health.

Materials Required:

- Fan out notification list Appendix 1
- Boil Water Advisory Notice Appendix 2
- Official Government Signage Appendix 3
- Labrador-Grenfell Health Internal Signage Appendix 4
- Line list for illness surveillance Appendix 5

Related Policies:

- PSQ-5-020 Incident Reporting Policy
- B-6-110 Gastrointestinal Infections Policy - **Draft**

Procedure:

1. Notification

Upon notification from the municipality or other agency regarding a Boil Water Advisory, the information will be disseminated according to the notification procedure specific to each site which has been developed for this purpose. See Appendix 1, for Community Clinics.

2. Signage

- The Boil Water notice from the municipality will be posted at the building entrance.
- Post the official government signage at all building entrances. (See Appendix 3)
- Signs have to be readily available and accessible 24/7.
- Signage will also be posted at all sources of running water for consumption, including but not limited to washrooms, patient rooms, staff accommodation, kitchens, water fountains etc. (See Appendix 4)

3. Activation

Water for Consumption

- If possible, water fountains will be turned off.
- Safe drinking water must be made available in all areas of the facility.
- Boil water for consumption for one (1) minute or bottled water will be used for consumption including drinking, breast milk substitutes (infant formulas), preparing juices and ice cubes, washing fruits and vegetable, cooking or brushing teeth.

Water for bathing or cleaning:

- It is not necessary to boil tap water used for other purposes, such as showering, bathing, laundry, or washing dishes.
- Medical Officer of Health will initiate additional precautions and will be discussed on a case by case if the boil water advisory is associated with a waterborne outbreak.

Water for equipment:

- Follow manufacturer's guidelines for all equipment that uses water during a boil water advisory (i.e. sterilizers).

Surveillance:

- Notify MOH immediately of any suspect gastrointestinal illnesses related to the boil water advisory. If after hours, contact MOH on call 1-866-270-7437.
- Use the line list to document all suspect gastrointestinal illness related to the boil water advisory (see Appendix 5).

4. Removal of Boil Water Advisory

- Removal to be approved by Environmental Health Officer or Medical Officer of Health.
- Initiate fan out process to inform employees that the boil water advisory is over.
- Remove all signs from the entrances and all other sources of water.
- Ensure that proper equipment disinfection and maintenance is performed prior to reuse according to manufacturers guidelines.

5. Departmental roles and responsibilities

The following points are high level guidelines only.

a. Maintenance

- Post signs at building entrances and all sources of running water for consumption. See Appendix 4 for signage.
- Ensure safe drinking water is available at all times and delivered to the appropriate locations during a boil water advisory.

b. Food Services

- Follow dietary's policy and procedures related to use of water for food preparation including for food served uncooked and for all food preparation equipment that uses water eg. coffee makers.

c. Nursing

- Advise patients and visitors of the boil water advisory as often as necessary to ensure they consume safe drinking water.
- Monitor patients closely for gastrointestinal diseases.

d. Dental Offices

- Use only boiled or bottled water for patients to drink or rinse and also for all hand washing.
- Follow dentals policy and procedure for the use of all dental equipment which requires water.

e. Sterilization

- Check with sterilization manufacturer on the use of equipment during boil order.

f. Accommodations

- Boil water for one (1) minute for consumption including drinking, breast milk substitutes (infant formulas), preparing juices and ice cubes, washing fruits and vegetable, cooking or brushing teeth.

Reference:

Department of Health and Community Services, Standards for Bacteriological Safety of Drinking Water, DHCS-2000-W1

Appendix 1

Fan Out Communication: Community Clinic

Regular Business Hours	“After Hours” Evenings/Nights/Weekends
<p>Town Official will contact by telephone and fax notification to the Regional Nurse II</p> <p>Regional Nurse II will call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCA • Maintenance Repairer • Nursing Staff • Clinical Coordinator • Child, Youth & Family Services & Dental Services if occupying same building. <p>Clinical Nurse Coordinator will call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance Repairer II • CDCN • Infection Control Coordinator • Chief Operating Officer • Regional Communication Director • Medical Officer of Health • Environmental Supervisor 	<p>Town Officials will call the on call Regional Nurse and fax notification to the Community Clinic.</p> <p>Regional Nurse on-call will notify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Nurse II • Maintenance Repairer • Clinical Nurse Coordinator <p>NOTE: In addition, the Business Hours Fan Out will be initiated, where necessary, the next regular working day.</p>

Appendix 2

BOIL WATER ADVISORY

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

The Municipality of _____ has issued a **Boil Water Advisory**
(*enter name of municipality*)

for the _____ as of _____
(*enter the area encompassed by the boil water advisory*) (date)

The boil water advisory has been issued for the following reason(s) (*list reasons*):

Issued by town. _____

Consumers are advised to bring water that you might ingest to a rigorous rolling boil for one (1) minute.

For example, boil water used for:

- **Drinking**
- **Cooking**
- **Brushing teeth**
- **Washing fruits & vegetables**
- **Making ice**
- **Making coffee/tea & other hot drinks**
- **Making juice and other juice from concentrate and powders**
- **Making infant formula & cereal**

For further information about the Boil Water Advisory please call:

Municipal Office:

Government Service Centre:

Regional Health and Community Services Board:

Note: If using a home water treatment unit (e.g., filter), please read and follow the manufacturer=s instructions.


Appendix 3



WARNING!
This Water Must Be
Boiled Before Drinking



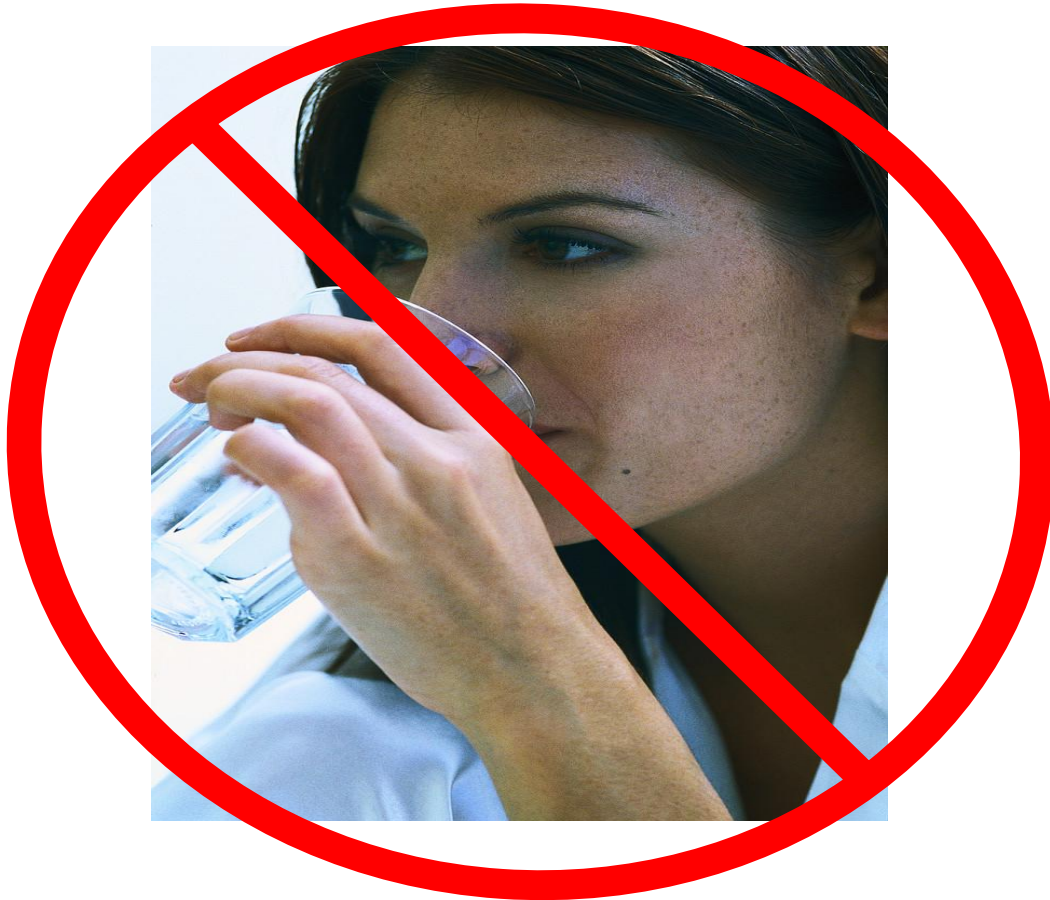
Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Government Services
Regional Health Authorities



Appendix 4

BOIL WATER ADVISORY

Do **NOT** Drink
The Water!



Appendix 4



BOIL WATER ADVISORY

**DO NOT DRINK
THE WATER!**

