

MANUAL:	Emergency
SECTION:	CODE ORANGE
SUBJECT:	Boil Water Advisory

POLICY

It is the policy of Schlegel Villages to provide a safe environment for all residents, team members, family, and visitors. To that end, the village will implement the following procedure in response to a boil water advisory.

REFERENCES

Government of Canada - Guidance for Issuing and Rescinding Boil Water Advisories in Canadian Drinking Water Supplies

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidance-issuing-rescinding-boil-water-advisories-canadian-drinking-water-supplies.html>

CDC – Boil Water Advisory – Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/drinking-water-advisories/boil-water-advisory.html#:~:text=Boil%20water%20advisories%20usually%20include,water%20to%20cool%20before%20use>

DEFINITIONS

Emergency Boil Water Advisory

Emergency boil water advisories are typically issued in response to:

- the confirmed detection of pathogenic microorganisms such as e-coli
- the breakdown of water treatment equipment such as loss of primary disinfection
- the overwhelming of water treatment due to major changes in water quality

Precautionary Boil Water Advisory

Precautionary boil water advisories may be issued in response to:

- local maintenance or planned repairs to the distribution system
- minor equipment malfunctions which may impact treatment
- a breach in system integrity such as a water main break
- unexpected changes in source water quality

DETAILED PROCEDURE

1. When the village is notified of a boil water advisory the general manager or designate will:
 - a. notify all village team leaders, team members, and residents
 - b. post boil water advisory memo/notices at main entrances, food preparation areas and on all neighbourhoods, including the Appendix A - Boil Water Advisory Guidance



- c. distribute copies of the Appendix A – Boil Water Advisory Guidance to residents and explain the guidance as needed
2. All team members will follow the Appendix A – Boil Water Advisory Guidance until the boil water advisory is lifted
 3. When the boil water advisory is lifted:
 - a. Flush the plumbing by running all cold-water faucets for at least five minutes
 - b. Flush all appliances connected to the water line such as coffee and hot water dispensers, juice dispensers and housekeeping chemical dispensers
 - c. Disposable filters that have come in contact with contaminated water should be removed and replaced.
 - d. Ice from ice makers should be dumped and replaced three times.

SUPPLIES

Villages should keep a basic stock of bottled water equivalent to 1000 ml per resident for LTC and care areas of retirement. This stock should be rotated to ensure it is fresh. Additional bottled water should be ordered immediately after being notified of a boil water advisory equivalent to 2000 ml per resident per day in LTC and care areas of retirement.

BOIL WATER ADVISORY - TRAINING

Boil Water Advisory training will be provided on orientation for all team members. The leadership team will strive to achieve 100% team member attendance on annual refresher training for Boil Water Advisory Training. This training may be covered under emergency procedure training and/or workplace violence and prevention training. refresher training may be in the form of education sessions, tabletop exercises, walk-through drills, functional drills, evacuation drills, or full-scale exercises.

Appendix A - BOIL WATER ADVISORY GUIDANCE

Consumption and Cooking

- Use bottled water for drinking and where possible for cooking
- If bottled water is not available, bring **water to a full rolling boil for 1 minute**. After boiling, allow the water to cool before use.
- Boil tap water even if it is filtered (for example, by a home water filter or a pitcher that filters water).
- Do not use water from any appliance connected to your water line, such as ice machines, coffee and hot water dispensers or juice dispensers

Handwashing

- In many cases, you can use tap water and soap to wash hands during a boil water advisory. Follow the guidance from your local public health officials.
- Be sure to scrub your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Then, rinse them well under running water.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Bathing and showering

- Be careful not to swallow any water when bathing or showering.
- Use caution when bathing anyone with cognitive impairment. Consider giving them a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water

Brushing teeth

- Brush teeth with boiled or bottled water. Do not use tap water that you have not boiled first.

Washing dishes

- If possible, use disposable plates, cups, and utensils during a boil water advisory.
- Dishwashers generally are safe to use if the water reaches a final rinse temperature of at least 150 degrees Fahrenheit (66°Celsius), or the dishwasher has a sanitizing cycle.

Laundry

It is safe to wash clothes as usual

Cleaning

- Discontinue use of chemical dispensers and switch to ready to use chemicals and disinfectants



BOIL WATER ADVISORY DRILL

Date: _____ Time of Incident: _____ Location: _____

Scenario Description:

Circle the appropriate answer

Were all team members and residents notified? Yes No

Were memos/notices posted with guidance? Yes No

Was the guidance explained to the residents? Yes No

Were all resources checked? Yes No

Were lines/equipment flushed as per guidance? Yes No

Names of team members who participated:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Comments/Recommendations:

Charge/Lead Nurse: _____ Signature: _____

Leader: _____ Signature: _____