



JOHNSTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

309 East Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577

Phone: 919-989-5180

Fax: 919-989-5190

Email: septicwellapplication@johnstonnc.com

Boil Water Advisory or System Pressure Advisory, or Boil Water Notification due to the presence of Total Coliform for Long-Term Care Facilities:

Boil Water Advisories (and Boil Water Notification due to a presence of Total Coliform) are issued after a water line main break, loss of pressure in the system, or when there has been a disruption in the water system. Periods of low or no pressure increase the potential for the introduction of bacteria in the water system. During this time, water samples will be collected. If the sample results indicate that there is a presence of Total Coliform then this indicates that the water supply has been contaminated. As a precaution, boiling the water will kill any bacteria that is potentially present. Boil all water for a minimum of 1-3 minutes before using. **The Long-Term Care Facility should take the following precautions to safely stay in operation:**

-Ice and beverage machines:

Turn off the ice and any beverage machine that uses the water supply. Discard all ice in the ice bin that could have been made from water during the water incident. Use bagged ice from an approved source.

-Beverages:

It is highly recommended to only use bottled water in the center to make bottles, sippy cups or other beverages for the children. This includes making beverages such as formula, juice drinks, drinks made by mixing with a powder, etc. If bottled water is not available then the water must be boiled rapidly for 1-3 minutes before using. Do not consume the water under a boil water advisory without first boiling it!

-Food Handling:

It is highly recommended that all food that is served under the Boil Water Advisory be prepackaged, prepared, canned or bottled items (such as frozen entrees, canned vegetables). If water is used for cooking, washing or preparing food then it is recommended to use only bottled water. If bottled water is not available then boil water before using it to cook or prepare with. Use bottled water to rinse or wash fruits and vegetables in if unable to purchase prewashed. If unable to purchase bottled water to wash fruits and vegetables, then the water can be boiled and cooled before using. Avoid any barehand contact with any foods during the advisory. Use a clean gloved hand or utensil to handle all foods with.

-Handwashing:

Hands must still be washed using soap and running water at the required frequency under normal operations (after diaper changing, after assisting in potty activities, after handling other body fluids, before food handling or serving, and any other time that hands could have been contaminated). Hand sanitizer should be used in addition to hand washing but never in replacement of it. After washing hands with soap and running water, use hand sanitizer. It is highly recommended to then use gloves for all food handling or serving activities, and when changing diapers or assisting in potty activities.

-Diaper Changing:

Hands must still be washed after changing a diaper or assisting a person in the restroom. After washing your hands with soap and running water, a hand sanitizer can be used. It is also recommended to wear gloves during the diaper changing or bathroom assistance. They must be changed between each person you are assisting and hands washed.

-Dishwashing:

Dish machines that use hot water as the sanitizer can continue to be used to wash and sanitize all food contact items. It is recommended to use single service items if there is a prolonged system pressure advisory. If your facility does not have a heat sanitizing dish machine and uses only chemical, then only single service items should be used.

-Bathing:

People with healthy immune systems and intact skin should be able to use the water for bathing, caution must be taken so the water is not consumed during the shower/bath. People without health immune systems and intact skin should avoid bathing or showering until the advisory is lifted.

Once the Boil Water Advisory or Notification has been lifted:

-Flush the water lines:

Turn on all faucets in the center to remove the water from the lines in order to flush them.

-Dispose ice and beverage:

Check to be sure all ice and beverages that were made with the potentially affected water are discarded.

-Clean and sanitize:

Clean and sanitize any food contact item that could have had contact with the potentially contaminated water, such as ice bins, bottle warmers, etc.