

# Precautions for Public Facilities during a Drinking Water Advisory

**Public facilities include schools, daycares, public recreational facilities, and hotels.**

The following precautionary measures for public facilities are in addition to the measures listed in the Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory (PDWA) or Emergency Boil Water Order (EBWO) Notice. The PDWA or EBWO notice is typically provided to all public facilities by the local municipality. A copy can also be obtained from the authority that issues the advisory. **Note: These measures do not apply to all public premises. Those that do not apply to your premises operation should be ignored.**

## General Precautions

- Advisory and order notices need to be posted at locations that are highly visible to the public (e.g. at the front entrance, inside public and staff washrooms, kitchen areas, staffrooms, etc.).
- Tap water must not be served to your patrons, or used for food preparation, for the duration of the drinking water advisory.
- Drinking water fountains should be controlled by shutting them off, or bagging and posting with a 'Do Not Drink' notice.

## Safe Drinking Water choices:

- Bottled water from an approved source.
- Tap water can be disinfected by bringing tap water to a rolling boil for at least 1

minute, then cooling before using. The disinfected water can be stored in a sanitized food grade container in a refrigerator.

- Water treatment equipment may be sufficient however, please contact your local health region to confirm.

## Specific Precautions

- Discard all ice made just prior to and while the drinking water advisory remains in effect and thoroughly wash, rinse, and sanitize ice trays using boiled water or a safe source of water (e.g. bottled water) and an approved sanitizer.
- All equipment directly connected to the public water system must be turned off (e.g. automatic ice making equipment, post mix soft drink dispensing units such as slush machines, drink dispensers and other similar equipment).
- Commercial coffee brewers generally operate at a brew temperature of 88°C – 90°C with this temperature being thermostatically maintained in the water tank. Brewing is achieved by displacement of the hot water with cold water within the tank. The temperature attained by the hot water will control bacterial and protozoan organisms of concern during a precautionary drinking water advisory or emergency boil water order:

- If the coffee produced by your coffee maker is held in the pot at 72°C for 1 minute, parasite oocysts will be inactivated. If your coffee maker is unable to meet adequate temperature and is directly plumbed to a water supply, it should be disconnected or no longer used.
- Healthy adults may shower or bathe as long as they are aware not to swallow any tap water.
- Infants, young children and people that have breaks in skin, recent surgical incisions, open wounds or blisters/sores should be sponge bathed with bottled water or an approved water alternative. Children and patients that are not mentally competent should be supervised when bathing to ensure water is not swallowed.

The link below provides the contact information for public health officers throughout the province:

<http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/public-health-inspections>

### **Actions to be taken when the PDWA or EBWO has been lifted**

- All water lines must be completely flushed for at least 5 minutes.
- Equipment directly connected to the water lines needs to be flushed, cleaned and sanitized as per manufacturer's instructions.
- All in-line water filters need to be replaced. Filter media that cannot be replaced should be backwashed and/or disinfected as per manufacturer's direction.
- Water softeners should be run through one regeneration cycle.
- Drain and refill hot water tanks if set below 45°C (113°F).



