



Boil Water Advisory Policy

Approved by: Administration

Effective Date: June 30, 2022

EP-11

Issued By: Administration

Review Date: June 30, 2022

Department(s) All

Version:

Archived: N

POLICY

Boil Water Advisory Policy refers to an emergency response to a “Boil Water” advisory issued by Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health (“KFLAPH”) or designate in the event there is a risk to the hospital drinking water supply.

Lennox and Addington County General Hospital (“LACGH”) is committed to ensuring the safety of all staff, patients, visitors and third party contractors. The Boil Water Advisory policy is intended to provide direction for continued operations during a Boil Water Advisory event.

PURPOSE

There shall be a process in place when there is a boil water advisory in effect for the facility to ensure there is safe water to drink and use.

During a boil water advisory, the drinking water supply may be contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms and drinking the tap water can make patients, residents, visitors and staff sick. Boiling the tap water destroys pathogens that may be present and makes the water safe to drink and use.

PROCEDURE

1. Upon receipt of a Boil Water Advisory issued KFLAPH, or designate organization, the Director of Risk Management or Designate (during business hours) or the Admin-On Call (“AOC”) (after hours) will initiate the “Boil Water” advisory in accordance with Public Health guidelines in consultation with the Director responsible for Patient Food Services, and the Registered Dietician.
2. The Director of Risk Management or Designate (during business hours) or the Admin-On Call (“AOC”) (after hours) will ensure the following:
 - a. Post copies of the KFLAPH (or Designate) health advisory at the entrance and throughout the facility.
 - b. Identify and control (shut off, bag or post signs) at all locations where people can obtain tap water to ingest including the kitchen area, kitchenettes, washrooms and handwashing sinks as a reminder that a boil water advisory is in effect and that the water is not safe to drink.
 - c. Discard any ice and beverages that may have been prepared with the affected water supply.
 - d. Disconnect the ice machine and discontinue making ice. Use commercially manufactured ice if needed. Ice bins should be cleaned with a hospital grade disinfectant solution once boil water advisory event has resolved.



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- e. Discard any foods made with water (e.g., ready-to-eat food) or rinsed with water (e.g., fruits and vegetables) prior to the boil water advisory.
- f. Do not use the tap water to drink, prepare foods, make juice, make ice or wash fruits and vegetables.
- g. During a boil water advisory, the water cannot be considered safe. Therefore, Patient Food services will use boiled water or bottled water to drink and prepare foods/beverages:
 - i. When boiling water, bring water to a full rolling boil for 1 minute then cool before use. This may take 20-30 minutes therefore plan ahead. The Cook is to boil water on the stovetops using 16qt pots.
 - ii. An emergency supply of bottled water should always be on site. Bottled water can be purchased through Sysco twice weekly. Emergency supply should consist of 500 ml water bottles x 2 cases of 24 and 4L water jugs x 4.

Utilize 18.5 L water jugs for staff drinking purchased through Culligan Water at 613-968-7700.
 - iii. Coffee and tea can be made by using water that has already been boiled for one minute before adding to the coffee maker or made using bottled water. If you are using an automatic shut-off kettle, make sure the water has boiled for one minute before you use it.
 - iv. Dishes must be sanitized by washing in a commercial dishwasher that has a hot water cycle of 82°C or higher. If dishes are to be washed manually a sanitizing solution must be used. The dishes must be left to air dry and are not to be rinsed with tap water.

- 3. Upon notification from KFLAPH or designate that the Boil Water advisory is no longer in effect, the Director of Risk Management or Designate (business hours) or AOC (after hours) will discontinue the Boil Water alert and complete form 423.

References:

<https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/Boil-Water-Advisory.aspx>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidance-issuing-rescinding-boil-water-advisories-canadian-drinking-water-supplies.html#a.4>