

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **PEMBINA VALLEY WATER COOPERATIVE PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER ADVISORY**

Scheduled maintenance to the water system in the Morris Regional Water Treatment Plant Reservoir will lead to the issue of a Precautionary Boil Water Advisory. It is possible that regular maintenance can compromise the safety of the water supply. A precautionary boil water advisory is being issued starting at 8:00 a.m. on May 30, 2019 to ensure the protection of public health.

**Location:** Rural Municipality of Morris (with the exception of the town of Sperling)

**Date and Time:** Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 8:00 a.m. to Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To avoid purchasing bottled water, and prior to the service interruption, water users can store tap water in clean containers for drinking water purposes and should fill the bathtub for flushing water during the outage.

Once water service resumes the Utilities Department will be flushing and testing the water. Water users may experience a sputtering water flow, discoloured or dirty water after the water service is restored. This is normal and should resolve after a few minutes of running your cold water tap.

**All water should be brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute before it is used for:**

- **Drinking and ice making**
- **Preparing beverages, such as infant formula**
- **Preparing food**
- **Brushing teeth**

It is not necessary to boil tap water used for other household purposes, such as laundry or washing dishes. Adult and older children that are able to avoid swallowing the water can wash, bathe, or shower. Young children should be sponge bathed. If boiling is not feasible, an alternate and safe supply of water should be used.

To avoid burn injuries from hot water, cautions should be taken. Please keep young children away from boiled water, and place kettles and pots away from counters and stove edges. Additional information can be found on the Boil Water Advisory fact sheets to follow.

We will post any notices and updates to our Facebook, Twitter and website ([www.rmofmorris.ca](http://www.rmofmorris.ca)) under events.

Please call Luke Chouinard (PVWC) at 204-324-1931 or his cell 204-304-0527 with any questions you may have.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## **PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER ADVISORY FOR THE MORRIS REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM**

Issued by the Medical Officer of Health, Manitoba Health and  
the Office of Drinking Water, Manitoba Sustainable Development  
**May 30, 2019.**

Scheduled maintenance to the water system in the Morris Regional Water Treatment Plant Reservoir will lead to the issuance of a Precautionary Boil Water Advisory. It is possible that regular maintenance can compromise the safety of the water supply. A precautionary boil water advisory is being issued starting at 0800 on May 30, 2019 to ensure the protection of public health in the following locations:

**Town of Morris**

**RM of Roland** (including Myrtle)

**Town of Roland**

**Village of Lowe Farm**

**RM of Morris** (with the exception of the town of Sperling)

**RM of Thompson** (East boundary with the RM of Roland up to but not including the Town of Miami)

**RM of Montcalm** (Residents East of the Red River from HWY 23 south along PTH 246 (served by the Morris Water Treatment Plant))

**RM of Stanley**

- North boundary of the RM of Stanley to Winkler – **NOT INCLUDING THE CITY OF WINKLER**. Includes the Rosebrook trailer park and water users along PTH 428.

- North boundary of the RM of Stanley, south to Morden – **NOT INCLUDING THE CITY OF MORDEN**

**Emerson Franklin Municipality** – Northwest corner of the Municipality only, including the town of Arnaud

**Winkler Bible Camp**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Until further notice, all water used for consumption should be brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute before it is used for:**

- Drinking and ice making
- Preparing beverages, such as infant formula
- Preparing food, including washing fruits and vegetables
- Brushing teeth

It is **not** necessary to boil tap water used for other household purposes, such as laundry or washing dishes. Adults and older children that are able to avoid swallowing the water can wash, bathe, or shower. Young children should be sponge bathed. If boiling is not practical, an alternate and safe supply of water should be used for consumptive purposes; i.e. bottled water. [Boil Water Advisory Fact Sheet #1 - Boil Water Advisory For Manitoba Water System Users](#) contains additional information on water use and can be found on the website below.

All commercial, public and permitted facilities (ex: restaurants, health care facilities, day cares, personal care homes and other private facilities that provide food and water services) must follow water use recommendations from the [Boil Water Advisory Fact Sheet #3 – Boil Water Advisory For Commercial/Public Facilities](#). A copy of this Fact Sheet is available on the website below.

**To avoid burn injuries from hot water**, caution should be taken. Please keep young children away from boiling water. Place kettles and pots away from counter and stove edges.

Please share this information with other people who use the tap water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (ex: renters, tenants, staff, or clients). This notice can also be posted in common areas where people tend to gather.

**DURATION**

The Boil Water Advisory will remain in effect until the water supplied by this water system no longer presents a risk to public health. You will be notified when the advisory has been rescinded.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative at 204-324-1931 or 204-304-0527, or the Regional Drinking Water Officer at 204-795-6908, or Health Links at 204-788-8200 (toll free at 1-888-315-9257).

To review Fact Sheets on water use, please go to [www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater) or <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/water.html>

# *Boil Water Advisory*

## For Manitoba Water System Users

### What to do when you're advised to boil your water

Boil water advisories are issued when a municipal, community or local water supply is at risk of microbial contamination. Advisories are issued by a Medical Officer of Health and water use instructions should be followed until you are told the risk of contamination is over.

Boiling your drinking water will kill microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, protozoa) that could cause illness.

Most advisories are only for tap water used as drinking water – the water can still be used for bathing, showering, laundry and washing dishes.

When a boil water advisory is issued for the water supply in your area, you will receive a public notice. It will state the reason for the advisory and any special instructions you need to follow.

The boil water advisory instructions apply even if you have a water treatment device in your house. These devices may not kill or remove microorganisms that are in your water supply.

### Boil water advisory for drinking water only

Tap water should be brought to a rolling boil for one minute and then stored in clean containers. A container of boiled water may be stored in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

Once the water has been boiled, it is safe to use for:

- drinking
- making infant formula and juice
- cooking
- making ice
- washing fruits and vegetables
- brushing teeth and soaking false teeth
- feeding pets

When boiling water, care must be taken to avoid burns and scalding. Place kettles and pots on back burners and away from counter edges. Kettles with an automatic shut-off feature may not boil the water for one full minute.

If you are boiling water in a microwave, put a glass rod, wooden or plastic microwave-safe stick (never metal) in the container so you do not super heat the water.

Get rid of all ice, infant formula, juice, drink mixes, etc. that were made before the boil water advisory was issued.

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Use usual precautions for infants under 6 months, (ex: sterilize bottles in boiling water).

An alternative to boiling water is to use water from a known safe source (ex: bottled water). Be aware that the advisory may also apply to local water bottlers or haulers if they are using the same water source.

Postpone home canning, beer and wine-making until the boil water advisory has been lifted.

You can use tap water for washing hands, dishes and laundry. Follow normal precautions when washing hands and dishes. Wash hands properly, rubbing all parts of the hand with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Dishes should be air dried and not wiped.

Adults and teens can shower or bath as long as they don't swallow any water. Older children can be given a shower with a hand-held showerhead, avoiding the face. Younger children should be sponge-bathed only, because they are most likely to swallow tub or shower water.

Share information related to the advisory with other people who use the tap water, especially those who may not have received the boil water advisory notice directly (ex: tenants, staff or clients).

## Additional precautions for high risk situations or immune-compromised persons

If the risk of contamination is more severe, the advisory will state clearly that the boil water applies to all domestic uses of tap water. (See Boil Water Advisory Fact Sheet #4 "Boil Water Advisory - For All Domestic Water Uses").

Anyone who has a weakened immune system (ex: cancer patient, someone taking immune suppressing medication, etc.) should contact their doctor or public health professionals for advice. Some of the additional precautions listed under Boil Water Advisory Fact Sheet #4 "Boil Water Advisory - For All Domestic Water Uses" may be recommended.

## Long-term advisories

Water systems may remain on boil water advisory for an extended period of time if they do not have treatment equipment to reduce the risk of microbiological contamination. Water use instructions should be followed until adequate treatment is provided and you are told the risk of contamination is over.

Consuming water from a poorly treated water supply can lead to gastrointestinal-related symptoms, such as diarrhea and nausea. If you are experiencing on-going gastrointestinal-related symptoms or are under the care of a physician, please discuss water use with your physician as you may need to take added precautions.

Infrastructure upgrades may be costly and require lengthy planning. Contact the water system owner for information on the steps being taken to address the advisory and when they expect the advisory to be lifted.

## Private well owners

Private well owners are responsible for testing and assessing the risk to their own well. Please see Boil Water Advisory Fact Sheet #2 "For Private Well Owners" if bacteria test results indicate your well water is not safe to drink, or if you have been advised to boil your well water for any reason.

## Commercial or public facilities

Owners of commercial or public facilities, such as restaurants, schools, daycares, hospitals, and water bottling or food processing facilities, are legally responsible for ensuring the water they provide to the public is safe for its intended use. Additional precautions apply during and after a boil water advisory. Please see “Boil Water Advisory Fact Sheet #3 For Commercial/Public Facilities” and talk to your local Public Health Inspector for more information.

## When a boil water advisory is lifted

When the safety of your water supply is confirmed, the boil water advisory will be lifted and you will be told you can use the tap water again. In most instances, normal water use can continue as usual immediately following the lifting of the advisory.

In some cases, additional steps may be required before returning to normal water use. These additional steps would typically be needed only if there has been widespread contamination throughout the distribution system or disease outbreaks attributed to the water supply. Homeowners can also take these steps if they

notice water quality concerns following an advisory. In these cases, normal water use should resume only after completing the following steps:

- Flush out your household water pipes to ensure they contain safe water before using them. To do this:
  - > Turn on one hot water tap and let it run until the water is cold. This will drain the hot water heater and refill it with safe water.
  - > Then, turn on all your cold water taps, faucets, fountains, showerheads and outside hose spigots and let them run for five minutes.
- Remove and clean all screens on taps and faucets.
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Replace any water filter cartridges in water treatment devices and follow the maintenance instructions in the owner’s manual.

## For more information

Other boil water advisory factsheets are available on the internet at: [www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/drinking\\_water/boil\\_water\\_advisory\\_factsheet.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/drinking_water/boil_water_advisory_factsheet.html)

For more information on drinking water safety, water treatment devices or to receive a copy of other drinking water fact sheets, please visit the Office of Drinking Water website at [www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater) or

contact 204-945-5762. To locate a local office near you, please refer to the website at [www.manitoba.ca/waterstewardship/odw/reg-contacts/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/waterstewardship/odw/reg-contacts/index.html).

For health information, contact Health Links at 204-788-8200 in Winnipeg; toll free at 1-888-315-9257 or contact your local public health office. To find your nearest office, go to: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html).

# Boil Water Advisory

## For Commercial/Public Facilities

### How to operate a commercial/public facility under a boil water advisory

Boil water advisories are issued when a municipal, community or private water supply is at risk of microbial contamination. These advisories also apply to:

- commercial businesses (ex: restaurants)
- public facilities (ex: schools)

in the area where they are issued.

Owners/operators of commercial and public facilities that provide water to the public are responsible for the safety of the water they supply. This includes:

- restaurants, food stores
- hospitals
- schools, child care facilities (centres, private homes)
- personal care homes, residential care facilities
- bulk water hauling vehicles
- bottling plants, self-serve water dispenser units
- commercial ice distributors
- dental, medical offices
- arenas, pools, spas, community centres
- food processing facilities

Public health inspectors may impose additional restrictions on facilities that possess food handling permits under The Public Health Act (ex: restaurants, personal care home kitchens). Facilities that cannot meet these added conditions may have to shut down

operations until the boil water advisory is lifted. In facilities where the contamination risk is extreme, facilities may not be allowed to reopen until a public health inspector gives written permission.

### What to do during a boil water advisory

If your facility water supply is monitored under the provincial semi-public water system program, you must contact your regional drinking water officer as there may be additional instructions.

Most commercial and public facilities can keep operating during a boil water advisory if the following standards are strictly adhered to:

#### **Use a safe, alternative, water source**

Local water bottlers and water haulers may be affected by the same boil water advisory if they get their water from the same source. In this case, commercially bottled water must be used, or water must be hauled from a safe, approved source.

Contact your regional public health inspector or drinking water officer about finding safe alternative sources.

#### **Advise clients and customers not to use tap water**

You must post signs at all sinks, drinking fountains and in public washrooms telling clients and customers not

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to drink the tap water. You can get signs from your water supplier, regional public health inspector or drinking water officer.

Children and some customers may have to be supervised in areas where water is easily available for public use.

## **Use bottled water from a safe source to prepare food and beverages**

It's difficult to boil large quantities of water and still ensure it's safe to drink. Therefore all drinking water given to customers/patients to drink, and all water used to prepare food and beverages (ex: powdered mixes, dehydrated food) must be from a reliable safe source such as bottled water.

All uncooked food and beverages that were prepared with tap water before the advisory must be discarded. All the containers must be disinfected before reuse (see below).

## **Disinfect used dishes and/or wash them in a commercial dishwasher**

Dishes and utensils that may have been contaminated before the boil water advisory was issued must be washed and disinfected in a commercial dishwasher before they are used again. Alternatively, dishes and utensils can also be cleaned and disinfected by hand using the "three-sink method" and a sanitizing solution (see instructions for sanitizing solution – for dishes and counters).

Commercial dishwashers can be used only if:

- the wash water is clear at all times (not cloudy or coloured)
- the dishwasher is operating in accordance with the specifications on the machine's data plate, which states the cycle times and temperatures that must be used
- the dishwasher can sanitize with either hot water (82° Celsius) or with a chemical solution approved under Manitoba's Food and Food Handling Establishments Regulation.

Dishes can be washed by hand – using the "three-sink method" – only if they are then disinfected by immersion for one minute in a sanitizing solution. They can also be washed by hand using other methods approved under Manitoba's Food and Food Handling Establishments Regulation.

As an alternative, disposable plates, cups and utensils can also be used to reduce the amount of dish washing.

## **Disconnect beverage dispensers and fountains**

Drinking water fountains and machines used to dispense cold beverages that have water lines directly connected to tap water lines (ex: slush machines, carbonated drink dispensers, iced cappuccino machines, ice cream machines) must be disconnected. Some beverage dispensers have in-line, pre-treatment devices but they do not disinfect or render the water safe. Bottled water from a safe source or canned drinks must be used instead.

Commercial coffee brewing machines that are directly connected to tap water lines can be used only if:

- The machine is equipped with a thermostatically maintained water tank that stores water at temperatures at 82°C (180°F) or hotter.
- The temperature of the water is verified using a metal stem probe thermometer by running a full batch and taking the temperature at a point below the funnel when the decanter is half full. The minimum temperature must reach 71°C (160°F) or hotter.

This exemption is not applicable to non-commercial or domestic grade coffee brewers as there may be a wide variation of temperatures in these machines.

## **Use bottled water to wash fruit, vegetables, other food**

All foods that need to be washed must be processed using only commercially bottled water from an approved source. Spray and mist hoses such as those in grocery display cases must be disconnected during the course of the boil water advisory.

### **Use reliable, safe water to make ice**

All ice made before the boil water advisory was issued must be discarded. Ice machines must be emptied and disconnected until the advisory is lifted. Ice storage containers/bins must be cleaned and then disinfected using a sanitizing solution before being used to store fresh commercial ice (see instructions for sanitizing solution – for dishes and counters).

### **Thaw food in refrigerators or microwaves**

Do not use tap water to thaw frozen food. Frozen food must be thawed in a refrigerator, in a microwave or as part of the cooking process.

### **Wash hands often using a chlorine bleach solution or alcohol-based hand sanitizer**

All staff must regularly wash their hands with warm tap water and soap, and then they must rinse them with a chlorine bleach solution (see instructions for chlorine bleach solution – for hand washing). The chlorine bleach solution must be available in all staff washrooms as well as in kitchens and food preparation areas.

As an alternative to chlorine bleach solutions, alcohol-based hand sanitizers that have more than 60 per cent alcohol may also be used. Note: baby wet wipes will not disinfect hands and should not be used for hand cleaning. Consult your regional public health inspector before using alcohol-based hand disinfectants to make sure you're using an effective formulation.

### **Disinfect countertops, food preparation areas, tables**

When a boil water advisory is issued, you must use a sanitizing solution to clean all countertops, chopping boards, tables and food preparation areas. Wash these areas with detergent and hot tap water and then disinfect them using a clean cloth and sanitizing solution to wipe them (see instructions for sanitizing solution – for dishes and counters). Let the solution stay on the surface for at least one minute before wiping dry with a clean cloth or let air dry.

### **Use extra care with children**

Use only bottled water from a reliable, safe water source for anything children drink or eat, including infant food and formula. Also use it for hand washing and food preparation, in day care facilities, home economics classes and cafeterias.

Use standard disinfecting process for diaper changing tables. Ensure employees and children follow standard hand washing procedures using bottled water.

Contact the regional public health inspector about using water for children's wading pools or water tables.

### **Monitor public showers, pools and spas**

Shut down showers in facilities where children/clients/patients are at risk of swallowing the shower water (ex: care homes, swimming classes, school gyms); use sponge baths instead. In facilities used only by adults (ex: public gyms, exercise/dance facilities), post signs in visible places warning people not to swallow water from the shower.

Talk to a public health inspector about the water in public pools and spas. Normal chlorine levels must be maintained during a boil water advisory and there may be additional requirements.

### **Use bottled water for dental patients**

Dentists must provide bottled water from a reliable source for patients to rinse their mouths. The tap water supply to high-speed drills and hand pieces must be shut off. Bottled water in a closed system, or a bulb syringe should be used for rinsing.

### **Talk to a public health inspector about bottling plants, water dispensers, and water hauling vehicles**

Bottling plants, water dispensers and bulk water haulers may also be adversely impacted by a boil water advisory situation. Bottling and dispensing equipment must be disconnected until the boil water advisory is lifted or approval is given to re-open. Contact your regional

public health inspector for instructions about water that was bottled before the advisory was issued. Your inspector will likely tell you to dump the water and to sanitize the system/dispenser once the advisory is lifted. Use manufacturers' instructions to sanitize the system. It's advisable to test the water before the water is provided to the public.

If you can demonstrate to the regional medical officer of health that your operation has a regular bacterial testing and maintenance program, you may be allowed to continue providing water during the advisory. Contact your local public health inspector about getting a "variance" to re-open and find out about any additional measures that must be implemented during a boil water advisory.

### **Water Treatment Devices**

Most water treatment devices installed on building water supply systems or taps are not designed to treat water for the kind of acute health-related contaminants addressed by a boil water advisory. Most are designed to deal with non-health related (aesthetic) water quality concerns, including taste, odour and hardness. Even if you normally use a water treatment device, follow the boil water advisory instructions to ensure the water is safe.

If you know a boil water advisory is expected to remain in effect for an extended time, a commercial or public facility may want to install a water treatment system to continue distribution. You must get written approval from the Office of Drinking Water before installing the equipment. Contact the Office of Drinking Water for more information (contact information at the end of this fact sheet).

## **What to do when a boil water advisory has been lifted**

When the water is considered safe to drink, the boil water advisory will be lifted. A public notice will be distributed to all water users. Follow all instructions

stated in the notice. If the notice does not state special instructions, you must follow these guidelines:

1. Flush out the building's water pipes to ensure they contain safe water before using them. To do this, turn on one hot water tap and let it run until the water is cold. This will drain the hot water heater and refill it with safe water.
2. Then, turn on all your cold water taps, faucets, fountains, showerheads and outside hose spigots and let them run for five minutes.
3. Clean faucet screens and aerators on all taps.
4. Flush, clean and sanitize water lines on equipment such as beverage machines, coffee machines and ice machines with clean water. Follow manufacturers' instructions.
5. Replace (do not just clean) water filter cartridges on taps and in water containers.
6. Flush, clean and sanitize any other water-using fixture or equipment using manufacturers' instructions.
7. Clean and sanitize all food preparation, dispensing and preparation equipment (ex: ice machines, soda fountains, ice cream dispensers) following manufacturers' instructions. This includes any in-line, pre-treatment devices. If you need help or information, contact the company that installed the equipment.
8. Clean and sanitize sprayers or misters using manufacturers' instructions.
9. Flush and sanitize water treatment devices using manufacturers' instructions. Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle. Replace any water filter cartridges in treatment devices. If you have a private water system, contact the regional drinking water officer or public health inspector about water testing, before using water again.
10. Use the clean water to make one batch of ice then dump the batch.

**Contact your local public health inspector to discuss these guidelines.**

# Chlorine Bleach and Sanitizing Solutions

## Instructions for chlorine bleach solution – for hand washing:

### Mix:

- 5 millilitres (1 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach

### With:

- 4 litres (1 gallon) of boiled or commercial bottled water (from an approved source)

Let the solution stand for at least 10 minutes and store in small clean containers. Clean plastic or glass bottles that have hand pumps work well.

### NOTE:

- **Label all containers: “Bleach/chlorine -- do not drink.”**
- **Make the solutions fresh every day – don’t store them overnight.**

## Instructions for sanitizing solution – for dishes and counters:

### Mix:

- 10 millilitres (2 teaspoons) of unscented household bleach

### With:

- 4 litres (1 gallon) of boiled or commercial bottled water (from a safe water source)

Let the solution stand for at least 10 minutes and store in small clean containers. Clean plastic or glass bottles that have hand pumps work well.

## For more information

For more information on drinking water safety, water treatment devices or to receive a copy of other drinking water fact sheets, please visit the Office of Drinking Water website at [www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater) or contact the Private Well, Education and Outreach Co-ordinator at 204-948-1351. To locate a local office near you, please refer to the website at [www.manitoba.ca/waterstewardship/odw/reg-contacts/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/waterstewardship/odw/reg-contacts/index.html).

For information on certification for water treatment devices, visit [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).

For information on well driller reports, well construction or sealing of unused wells, contact Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Groundwater Management Section at 204-945-6959.

For health information, contact Health Links at 204-788-8200 in Winnipeg; toll free at 1-888-315-9257 or contact your local public health office. To find your nearest office, go to: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html).