

## **PREPARING FOOD DURING A BOIL WATER ADVISORY**

### **Immediate Steps to Take When a Boil Water Advisory is Issued:**

- DO NOT use the water for drinking, making juices or ice, washing fruits or vegetables, or preparing ready-to eat foods.
- Turn off drinking water fountains.
- Discard ice and beverages that may have been prepared with the affected water supply.
- Discontinue making ice; use ice from a commercial ice supplier made with safe water.
- Disconnect ice cream machines, dipper wells, and any other food preparation equipment connected to the water supply.
- Post signs at all faucets, including kitchen area and washrooms, as a reminder of the boil water advisory and not to drink the water.
- To make the water safe, bring to a rapid rolling boil for at least one minute.
  - Boil only as much water in the pot that one can comfortably lift without spilling.
  - Ensure water is cooled appropriately before using or direct handling to prevent scalds.

### **What sources of water are approved to be used during a boil water advisory?**

- Water that has been boiled for one full minute (water can be boiled the night before, cooled overnight, and stored in a covered disinfected container). Always ensure water is cooled appropriately before use or direct handling to prevent scalds.
- Commercially bottled water (consult with IPAC Lead or designate to confirm brand used has not been affected by the Boil Water Advisory)
- Hauled water from an alternate approved supply not affected by the Boil Water Advisory

### **Can the cold beverage dispensing machine be used?**

No. Beverage machines connected to the cold water supply used to dispense cold drinks (carbonated beverages, iced cappuccino, etc.) must not be used during the boil water advisory.

### **Can tap water be used in commercial coffee brewers and hot tea towers during a boil water advisory?**

Yes. Ensure the coffee maker/hot tea tower produces water at 70°C/160°F. This temperature is sufficient to inactivate disease-causing microorganisms. It is recommended that the coffee pot be held for at least five minutes on the burner prior to consumption.

- Verify temperature using a probe thermometer

### **Can tap water be used to prepare food products that use water as an ingredient without cooking?**

No. Use boiled, bottled, or an alternate safe water source in the preparation of food products such as powdered drinks, puddings, jellies, sauces, etc.

### **Can tap water be used to prepare food that will be boiled?**

Yes. Tap water can be used to prepare foods that will be boiled as long as the water is brought to a rolling boil for one minute.

### **Can tap water be used to wash dishes by hand?**

Yes. Follow 3-compartment sink dishwashing procedure, and ensure dishes have enough time for complete air drying to take place.

**Can the commercial dishwasher be used to clean and disinfect dishes?**

Yes. Follow normal dishwashing procedures, and ensure dishes have enough time for complete air drying to take place.

**Can glass washer with cold water rinse be used?**

No. Glass washers with a cold water rinse must not be used during the boil water advisory.

- Use a hot water sanitizing cycle to wash and sanitize glasses.
- For further information, discuss with Public Health.
- Single-use glasses/cups may also be used.

**Can domestic style dishwashers be used in the building?**

Yes, domestic style dishwashers may be used, provided the machine has a hot temperature setting or sanitizer cycle.

- If the dishwasher does not have a hot temperature setting, stop the dishwasher at the start of the rinse cycle, add 4 teaspoons (20 mL) of liquid household chlorine bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite, then re-start dishwasher.
- Let dishes dry completely, using a heated cycle dry on the dishwasher.

**Can tap water be used for cleaning and disinfecting counter tops, cutting boards, and other kitchen surfaces?**

- Wash kitchen surfaces with soap, then rinse and sanitize with bleach solution.
- To prepare the bleach solution (sanitizer strength of 200mg/L chlorine solution), add one teaspoon of liquid household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) to one litre of room temperature water that has either been previously boiled, is from a safe bottled water source, or has been hauled from a safe public supply.
- Spray or pour solution onto food contact surfaces and let sit for a minimum of 2 minutes.
- Make a new bleach solution every day (bleach breaks down quickly once it is mixed with water).
- Note: vinegar is not an acceptable disinfectant.