

Guidelines for Child Care Facilities during a Boil Water Advisory

A **Boil Water Advisory** (BWA) has been issued by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU). The boil water advisory remains in effect until it is lifted by the NBPSDHU.

The guidelines below are provided to operators of child care facilities in response to the boil water advisory issued.

During A Boil Water Advisory

1. Water for Drinking

- Use only boiled or commercially bottled water. All water used for drinking or for use as an ingredient in other prepared foods must be commercially bottled or boiled for one (1) minute (rolling boil) then stored in clean and disinfected covered containers until served.
- Post signs advising not to drink the tap water at all sinks. Fountains should be turned off or made inaccessible.

2. Food Preparation

- Refer to Guidelines for Food Establishment Operators during a Boil Water Advisory.

3. Exclusion with Diarrhea

- Exclude all children or staff reporting diarrhea until symptoms have subsided for at least 48 hours.
- Report all illness linked to a community outbreak to the Medical Officer of Health.

4. Handwashing Guidelines during a Boil Water Advisory

- Wash hands by usual handwash technique using soap and water. Rinse hands using an alcohol based hand disinfectant (containing more than 70% alcohol).

5. Teethbrushing

- Ensure availability of bottled water or water that has come to a rolling boil for one (1) minute for teeth brushing.

6. Water Play Stations

- Stop the use of water play tables during this time. Drain all water play tables or play areas containing water.
- Discourage activities/crafts which utilize water and where there is a risk that children may consume a product (e.g., hand painting, baking, pasting with glue made from flour and water).

7. Washing Toys

- Wash cloth toys or dress up clothes in a washing machine and heat dry them in a clothes dryer for 30 minutes.
- Disinfect toys in a disinfectant solution ensuring adequate contact time. Dishwasher-safe toys may also be cleaned in a dishwasher providing that the machine uses a hot water wash at 60°C with a hot water sanitizing rinse of 71°C at the dish level.

For more information, call the Health Unit at 705-474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808 or visit www.myhealthunit.ca.