

Guidelines for Child Care Centres During a Water Interruption

An interruption is when no water is provided to the facility. In some situations, an interruption in water supply may lead to the issuance of a Boil Water Advisory once the water supply returns.

Important: If your water has been interrupted, even for a short time, you should confirm the safety of the water supply before you resume use.

This facts sheet is a guideline only. Special procedures may be necessary and additional instructions may be provided. Watch for media reports and notifications from the Health Unit.

Where do I start?

Identify a “Person-in Charge” who will be responsible for ongoing management of the emergency

Drinking Water

Immediately:

- Secure a supply of potable (drinkable) water by:
- Using commercially bottled water.
- Hauling water from another unaffected approved public water supply in a covered sanitized container or arranging for the use of a licensed drinking water hauling truck.

Food Preparation and Cooking

- Restrict menu to items that need little or no water to prepare.
- Use commercially bottled water, water hauled from another unaffected approved public water supply in a covered sanitized container, or water from a licensed drinking water hauling truck.

Important: All water used to wash and prepare fruits and vegetables, and any water used as an ingredient in a ready-to-eat food product (coffee, juice, jello, ice etc.) must be from one of the sources described above.

Hand Washing

- Heat potable water (as described above) and place into an insulated container with a spigot that allows clean, warm water to flow over the hands. Provide liquid soap in a dispenser and paper towels as usual.
- Follow-up with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Post hand washing directions at all sinks.



For more information, please call the
Health ACTION Line at **1-800-660-5853**
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Diapering

- Use disposable gloves to change diapers and wash hands with potable water (as described above) and follow-up with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when complete.
- Wash children's hands with potable water (as described above) or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after drying your hands.
- Disinfect the diapering area between children with your usual sanitizer following manufacturer's concentration and contact time
- Wash your hands.

Water for Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Use single service utensils where possible; or
- Use potable water (as described above) to clean and sanitize equipment and utensils.
- Ensure proper manual dishwashing is followed. Refer to the “**Dishwashing – 3 Sink Method**” poster for instructions.

Note: Food preparation in a facility must be discontinued when cleanliness of the physical facility jeopardizes food safety.

Water to Flush Toilets

- Create an Emergency “Toilet Room” within the facility that has an alternate source of water available for manual flushing. Non potable water may be used for this purpose but the water containers must be clearly marked with “**Non potable water. This water is unsafe to drink.**”
- Flush the toilet by dumping a bucket of water into the toilet bowl all at one time. This will clear the bowl.

The facility must cease operation and close if:

- There is no water available for drinking or hand washing
- Food cannot be safely prepared and served
- Proper cleaning and sanitizing cannot be achieved
- The water interruption has made safe operation of the facility impossible

For returning to normal operations after the water supply is restored, refer to the factsheet, “**Returning to Normal Operation after a Water Disruption**”, for guidance.

Reference: Adapted with permission from the Middlesex London Health Unit



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