

Returning to Normal Operation After a Water Disruption in a Child Care Centre

This fact sheet is a guideline only. Watch for media reports and situation specific information from the local utility and the Health Unit.

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 with the water utility or the Health Unit prior to resumption of use. It is the responsibility of the facility operator to ensure that normal operations can be resumed without compromising safety.

When water is restored:

- Flush pipes and faucets – Generally, run the faucets for at least one minute before use. Be sure to watch for media reports from the water utility or the Health Unit with any special directions.
- Flush, clean and sanitize all equipment connected to the water system, according to manufacturer instructions.

If applicable:

- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
- Consult with the manufacturer for direction on how to restart water treatment systems.
- Drain and refill hot water tanks set below 45°C/120°F. (The standard temperature setting is 60°C/140°F).
- Drain water reservoirs in large buildings in consultation with the facility engineer.

Reference: Adapted with permission from the Middlesex London Health Unit