

# FACTS

---

## GUIDELINE FOR HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION AND DAY CARE FACILITIES STAFF DURING A BOIL WATER ORDER

---

### During a Boil Water Order

- All employees with diarrhoeal illness are to be excluded from work for 48 hours post last episode.
- Residents, children and employees should not consume untreated tap water, ice or drinks made from untreated tap water.
- Cafeteria or food service staff should not serve water, ice or drinks made with untreated water, or raw foods rinsed with untreated water.
- Dishwashing machines that have a dry cycle or a final rinse that exceeds 82°C will adequately disinfect dishes.
- Do not use untreated water for water play tubs during a Boil Water Order unless the water is boiled or disinfected.
- Water can be disinfected by:
  - Bringing water to a rolling boil for one minute; or
  - Distilling; or
  - filtering through a “reverse osmosis” filter, an “absolute one micron” filter or a filter certified to remove *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia* under NSF International Standard #53 for either “cyst removal” or “cyst reduction”.

### Upon Lifting of a Boil Water Order

- Any water-using fixture or piece of equipment should be re-started and flushed in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications. This may vary from fixture to fixture. Your facilities engineer and/or the manufacturer should be consulted when you re-start the equipment.
- Run cold water faucets for one minute before using the water.
- Run drinking fountains for one minute before using the water.
- Backwash pool/spa/whirlpool or hot tub filters and change media or water as warranted.
- Run water softeners through regeneration cycle.
- Hot water heaters set below 82°C should be drained and refilled.

*Adapted from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta guideline, 1995*