

## Precautionary Surveillance for Enteric Illness Associated with Boil Water Advisory in South Barrie – April 5 & 6, 2019

**Attention:** Physicians, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN

**Date:** April 9, 2019

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On April 5<sup>th</sup>, there was a large water main break at Yonge Street and Big Bay Point Road in South Barrie. Residents and businesses were advised to boil their water while the water main was being repaired and laboratory testing was being done. The Boil Water Advisory (BWA) was issued on April 5 and lifted on the evening of April 6, 2019.

It has come to our attention that some residents may have consumed City of Barrie tap water before they were aware of the BWA. At this time, we have not received any reports of illness. However, as a precaution, we would like to increase surveillance regarding enteric illness in residents who consumed unboiled tap water while under the BWA on April 5 and 6, 2019.

If you see a patient who has consumed unboiled City of Barrie tap water from the affected area on April 5 or 6 during the BWA, and they are still experiencing diarrhea, please consider ordering an enteric stool culture as well as testing for ova and parasites and report the suspect case of gastrointestinal illness to the health unit.

Some organisms that can cause waterborne illness are E. coli, Giardia and Cryptosporidium with incubation periods from three to a maximum of approximately 14 days.

Submission and collection notes for an [enteric stool culture](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/) can be found on the Public Health Ontario website at <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

1. Collect a minimum of 2ml of liquid faeces or add faeces up to the fill line indicated. Do not overfill.
2. Follow the instructions found in the Faeces Enteric Bacteriology Kit.
3. The stool specimen must be received in the laboratory and processed within five days of collection.

Submission and collection notes for [ova and parasites](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/) can be found on the Public Health Ontario website at [www.publichealthontario.ca](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/)

1. Collect faeces in clean dry white top container and then emulsify another portion in the yellow top (SAF) vial of the Parasitology Kit. Follow the collection instructions on the instruction sheet provided with the Parasitology Kit.

To report a suspect case or if you have any questions please call the Infectious Diseases Program at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 extension 8809 during business hours or after hours at 1-888-225-7851.

