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Boil Water Advisory in Cookstown

Attention: Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacies, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Occupational Health Professionals, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN

Date: June 21, 2022

Due to a watermain break near 4161 Highway 89 in Cookstown yesterday afternoon, residents and businesses within the affected area as indicated on the attached map and also available at the following link: (<https://innisfil.ca/en/news/boil-water-advisory-in-effect-for-cookstown.aspx>) are being advised to boil their water. This advisory remains in effect until further notice and will be lifted once the safety of the water has been confirmed by laboratory tests. It is anticipated that these results will be available in the next 1-2 days.

Dental Settings

For dental offices, the implications are that water from public systems cannot be used in any dental treatment, for hand hygiene or reprocessing. The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines 2018, page 30 provides specific guidance for dental offices on the precautions that must be taken. The information is available at: https://az184419.vo.msecnd.net/rcdso/pdf/standards-of-practice/RCDSO_Standard_of_Practice_IPAC.pdf

Postpone treatment if possible or use distilled or bottled water through a closed delivery system while also considering the use of single use disposable instruments where able. Use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with 70-90% alcohol for hand hygiene and if hands are contaminated or visibly soiled use distilled or bottled water and antimicrobial soap. Once the boil water advisory has ended, all taps and waterlines need to be flushed for five minutes and all dental waterlines in dental units and equipment must be disinfected according to manufacturer's instructions prior to use.

All other settings

If you are operating a business within the affected area, please review the following key messages recommended by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU):

- Pressure may be restored but it does not mean that the water is safe for use.
- Do not allow patients, visitors, or staff to drink water. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute and allow it to cool down before use. As an alternative, use bottled water or commercially treated water from an approved source noting that these sources are not considered sterile.
- Do not use water for handwashing, use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with 70-90% alcohol to clean hands.



- If hands are visibly soiled, use moistened towelettes to clean hands, followed by ABHR
- Signage should be in place to remind staff, patients, and visitors
- Enact contingency plans for critical equipment connected to the main water system and for reprocessing of medical equipment.
 - Single use items are permitted to be used or items reprocessed prior to June 20, 2022
 - Do not use any water for preparing medications or formula.

There is general information on the SMDHU website regarding what to do during a boil water advisory at the following link: <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/SafeWater/drinkingwater/What-to-do-during-a-Boil-Water-Advisory>

Affected Area

