

## Boil Water Advisory in Town of Bracebridge

**Attention:** Physicians, Regulated Health Professionals, Long-Term Care Facilities, Retirement Homes, Pharmacies, Licensed Child Care in affected area, NSM LHIN, Muskoka Algonquin Health Care

**Date:** January 10, 2021

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Due to a large water-main break in the Town of Bracebridge drinking water system, residents and businesses within the Town of Bracebridge are being advised to boil their water. The Boil Water Advisory remains in effect until it is lifted by the Medical Officer of Health after sampling confirms no contamination of the drinking water. You will be notified when the Boil Water Advisory has been lifted. It is anticipated that these results will be available by mid-week.

If you are operating a business, clinic or facility 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, residents, 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. Or 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, residents/patients and essential 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 January 10, 2021.
  - Dental offices are to follow the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for boil water advisories.
  - Do not use any water for preparing medications or formula.
- If sanitation and toileting becomes an issue, please call SMDHU at the number below.

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

For more information on safe drinking water during a BWA see [www.smdhu.org](http://www.smdhu.org) or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

