

DRINKING WATER WARNING

The Town of Holbrook is under a BOIL WATER ORDER per MassDEP due to a LOW PRESSURE EVENT

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Our water system has experienced a loss in pressure due to our ongoing mechanical issues at the joint water treatment plant. The immediate mechanical issues have been corrected. We are now working to restore the water pressure to normal operating pressure. Low pressure increases the potential risk of bacteria entering the water system. In order to mitigate this risk DEP has issued a boil water order. This order will remain in place until we reach normal pressure and sample testing confirms the absence of any contaminants.

We are testing for total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria as a precaution. These bacteria can make you sick, and are especially a concern for people with weakened immune systems.

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. Discard any ice, beverages, formula, and uncooked foods that were prepared with water from the public water system on or after 4:00 am, Wednesday 7/10/19.
- **E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.**
- **Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.**
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

We have activated an interconnection with the Town of Braintree and pressure is recovering. We are increasing chlorine residual levels and a chlorine odor or discoloration may be detected in the water. Once pressure has been returned, we will flush hydrants to ensure that the chlorinated water reaches all parts of the distribution system. We are waiting for the test results of the bacteriological samples which were collected today. We will inform you when tests confirm bacteria is not present and the boil water order is lifted. We are working with MassDEP SERO to resolve the situation as quickly as possible and anticipate resolving the problem by the end of the week/this weekend.

For more information, please contact Christopher Pellitteri at 781-767-1800.

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Holbrook Public Works Dept. State Water System ID#: 4133000

Date distributed: 7/10/19.

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT YOUR DRINKING WATER MAY BE CONTAMINATED WITH BACTERIA

BACKGROUND: Due to a Low Pressure event, we are currently under a **BOIL WATER ORDER** by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The following are precautions you can take:

1. **DRINKING WATER:** There are two simple and effective methods you can use to treat drinking water for microbiological contaminants.
 - a. **Boiling:** Bring the water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute. Laboratory data show this is adequate to make the water safe for drinking.
OR
 - b. **Disinfectant:** Disinfectant tablets obtained from a wilderness store or Pharmacy may be used. In an emergency, liquid chlorine bleach such as Clorox or Purex can be used at a dose of 8 drops (or 1/8 teaspoon) of bleach to each gallon of water. **(Careful measurement with a clean dropper or other accurate measuring device is required when using liquid chlorine bleach).** Let stand for at least 30 minutes before use. Read the label to see that the bleach has 5-6% available chlorine.
2. **WASHING DISHES:** It is best to use disposable tableware during the time the water needs disinfection. If that is not possible, the following steps should be taken:
 - a. **Washed dishes:** Should be rinsed in a solution of 1 teaspoon of bleach, as mentioned above, in a gallon of warm water (submersion in a dishpan for a minimum of 5 minutes is advised). The dishes should be allowed to air dry. Gloves should be worn when handling bleach to minimize any skin irritation.
 - b. **Rinsed Dishes:** Because of the many variables involved with dishes washed in a dishwasher, we recommend that you use the additional rinse step as described above.
3. **OTHER WATER USE CONSIDERATIONS:**
 - a. **Bathing:** Young children should be given sponge baths rather than put in a bathtub where they might ingest the tap water. Adults or children should take care not to swallow water when showering.
 - b. **Brushing your teeth:** Only disinfected or boiled water should be used for brushing your teeth.
 - c. **Ice:** Ice cubes are not safe unless made with disinfected or boiled water. The freezing process does not kill the bacteria or other microorganisms.
 - d. **Washing fruit and vegetables:** Use only disinfected or boiled water to wash fruits or vegetables that are to be eaten raw.
 - e. **Hand Washing:** Only boiled or disinfected water should be used for hand washing.
 - f. **Cooking:** Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute before adding food.
 - g. **Infants:** For infants use only prepared canned baby formula that is not condensed and does not require added water. Do not use powdered formulas prepared with contaminated water.
 - h. **House Plants and Garden:** Water can be used without treatment for watering household plants and garden plants. The exception would be things like strawberries or tomatoes where the water would contact the edible fruit.