

## **Boil Water FAQ. Water Safety and Child Care Programs**

The purpose of this document is to assist Childcare Providers to provide a safe water supply when a boil water order, advisory or notice (the three terms can be interchanged) has been issued by the local water utility/public water supply.

### **What is a “boil order”?**

**327 IAC 8-2.1-7** is the “Public notification of drinking water violations” and requires public notification by radio, TV, newspaper or posting to all customers. There are a variety of reasons this notice may be made: excessive total coliform or E.coli, failure to test for fecal coliform or E.coli, excessive nitrates, excessive turbidity, outbreak of waterborne disease, or system water pressure drop. If excessive fecal coliform or E.coli, the water must not be used for any purpose.

### **When a “boil order” is issued the following will be impacted when not able to use water directly from the tap:**

- water used in beverages, such as coffee, tea, or fountain drink dispensers (including carbonated)
- water used as an ingredient in any food products (i.e.: condiments, sauces, dressings, desserts, etc.)
- water used to make consumable ice (including automatic ice machines)
- water used for handwashing
- water used for washing and sanitizing of food contact surfaces
- water used for washing of produce
- water used for sanitizing solution for wiping cloths
- water used in 3-compartment sinks
- low temperature dish machines that use a chemical to sanitize

### **What water can be used?**

- Bottled purchased water.
- Boiled and cooled tap water- the Utility will dictate how long to boil it.
- Chlorinated water- the Utility may advise to use chlorine bleach to sanitize the water for drinking.

### **What to do after the order is lifted?**

- Flush water lines (faucets) and dish machines.
- Flush and sanitize all water fixtures and appliances of standing water, such as ice machines, refrigerator water filters and water heaters.
- Run ice machines through once cycle of production and discard the ice.