

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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NEWS RELEASE

Public Health issues boil water advisory for _____ (city/county)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Contact Name
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The Alabama Department of Public Health has issued a boil water advisory for _____ (city) in _____ (county) because of _____ (issue). This advisory will be in effect until _____ (date/time).

To ensure destruction of all harmful bacteria and other microbes, all tap water within the defined area used for drinking, food preparation and making ice should be boiled prior to consumption. The water should be brought to a vigorous rolling boil and then boiled for two minutes.

“It’s important that people follow the necessary steps to ensure that their water is safe by using the proper boiling method. Consuming contaminated water can cause health effects that can range from minor physical impact to severe illness or even death,” said _____ (ADPH spokesperson).

Some of the effects of drinking contaminated water can be immediate. These include gastrointestinal illnesses such as nausea, vomiting, cramps and diarrhea. Many factors affect the possible health impact of contaminated water on a person including the following:

- The age and general health status of the person
- The amount of contaminated water consumed
- How long the person has been drinking the contaminated water

Residents in the affected area should also take additional actions to prevent illness from contaminated water such as:

- Avoiding delivering water to patients through the dental unit, ultrasonic scaler, or other dental equipment that uses the public water system.

- Washing hands with antimicrobial products that do not require water (alcohol-based hand rubs) can be used until the boil-water advisory is cancelled. If hands are visibly contaminated, bottled water and soap should be used for hand washing or an antiseptic towelette.

In lieu of boiling, you may purchase bottled water or obtain water from some other suitable source, such as a separate water reservoir or other treatment device cleared for marketing by the Food and Drug Administration.

Once analysis has been conducted on submitted water samples, and an evaluation has been determined about the water quality, updated information will be provided to the public. City officials will announce when the boil water advisory has been lifted.

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xx/xx/xx (date)