



# NEWS RELEASE-2

DATE

8:55A.M. 10 APRIL 2010

RE FIRST UPDATE TO HEALTH ADVISORY  
FROM CITY OF EPHRATA  
CONTACT CITY HALL (509) 754-4601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Health Advisory Update Boil Water Order Continues, Disinfection Proceeding

EPHRATA, WA. The state Department of Health and the City of Ephrata are continuing to advise residents to boil their tap water or buy bottled water until further notice. Potentially harmful bacteria were detected in the water during routine testing this week.

As of Saturday morning, 10 April 2010, disinfection of the City's water system is proceeding. Chlorine has been injected into the entire water system at proper concentrations. Crews will begin the process today of flushing the system, prior to a series of stringent tests on Sunday and Monday.

Until further notice, all residents must continue to use only boiled or store-purchased bottled water.

One sample showing contamination from non-acute (free from *E.Coli*) coliform bacteria was Well #6. This well was removed from service early Friday as a possible source of the contamination. Once our water system has been certified as 100% safe, an investigation will proceed on Well #6. Well #6 will remain disconnected until it too has been certified as safe.

The City's website ([www.ephrata.org/309.html](http://www.ephrata.org/309.html)) will be updated over the weekend with all current news.

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On Wednesday afternoon, *E.coli* bacteria were found in one of eight water samples. Continued testing has shown the presence of other non-acute (no *E.Coli*) coliform bacteria in the water system. The City and the State acted as a precautionary measure, to issue this Health Advisory.

The Advisory affects roughly 7,100 people, including more than 3,200 homes and businesses in our community. The Advisory is in effect for the entire community of Ephrata.

This health advisory includes several precautionary steps customers should take. These include using boiled water or bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, dishwashing, and making ice. Tap water should be boiled for one minute and allowed to cool before use.

The Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water is working closely with the City to find the source of contamination, disinfect the system, and prevent a repeat occurrence. Our priorities today are disinfecting the water system, and then doing more tests to ensure our water is safe.

The advisory will remain in effect until the City and the Department of Health are both satisfied there is no longer a health threat to the system's customers.

The City will announce the lifting of the boil order through all local media, the City's website, and the County Telephone Notification System. Until the City issues that notification, please continue to follow these guidelines.

Residents who have questions should call the City at 754-4601 during regular business hours.

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### Additional Contact Information

City website: <http://www.ephrata.org/309.html>

Department of Health: <http://www.doh.wa.gov>

City Hall Phone: (509) 754-4601 (Mon-Fri 7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.)