



NEWS RELEASE-3

DATE

12:07P.M. 11 APRIL 2010

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Advisory Update Boil Water Order and Disinfection Continue

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 Sunday afternoon, 11 April 2010, disinfection of the City's water system continues. City crews will continue the process today of flushing the system today, prior to a series of ten stringent tests this afternoon and Monday morning. The results of these tests may not be known for several days.

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

Waterline and street project construction does not appear to be a cause of this incident in any way.

City Well #6 was removed from service early Friday as a possible source of the contamination. This well will continue to be isolated from our water system. Once our entire system has been certified as safe, we will investigate all possible causes. A report will be produced and made public following that investigation.

The City's website (www.ephrata.org/309.html) will be updated tomorrow morning with current news.

Last week, *E.coli* bacteria were found in one of eight water samples. Continued testing showed 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 a Health Advisory at 12:15p.m. Friday 09 April 2010. The Advisory is still in effect.

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.)