



# NEWS RELEASE

DATE

12:15P.M. 09 APRIL 2010

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Health Advisory State Department of Health, City Issue Boil Water Order

EPHRATA, WA. The state Department of Health and the City of Ephrata are advising 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.

On Wednesday afternoon, *E.coli* bacteria were found in one water sample. Continued testing has shown the presence of coliform bacteria in the water system. The City is acting now 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 alerting citizens, 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.

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### Additional Contact Information

City website: [www.ephrata.org](http://www.ephrata.org)

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

City Hall Phone: (509) 754-4601