

CONTAMINATED WATER SUPPLY/WATER INTERRUPTION GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

BIOLOGICALLY CONTAMINATED WATER SUPPLY (Table A) LASTING LESS THAN 2 HOURS

If there is a biologically contaminated water event, boiled water or potable water from another approved source can be used. Approved potable water sources include: commercially bottled water, water hauled from an approved public water supply in a covered sanitized container, or approved drinking water from a hauler truck.

Tap water should come to a rolling boil for at least one minute prior to use. Although bleach or other chemical disinfectants are typically allowed for disinfecting small quantities of drinking water in residential settings, this **is not** an option for food service facilities due to the lack of onsite equipment for testing chemical residuals.

Table A

Activity	Biological Water Contamination
*Cooking	Boiled or potable water only
*Cleaning food contact surfaces	Boiled or potable water only
*Dishwashing	3-compartment sink with boiled or potable water only
*Handwashing	Boiled or potable water only
Ice making	Turn off machine until potable water is available; use commercially manufactured ice
Post-mix soda machines (boxes of syrup and CO ₂ , using the facility water source)	Turn off until potable water is available
Coffee/tea machines	If water is boiled as part of the brewing process, acceptable to use

- ❖ It is recommended that disposable plates and eating utensils be used.
- ❖ Biologically contaminated water **can** be used for flushing toilets and cleaning floors, walls and ceilings.

FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS MUST DISCONTINUE OPERATIONS IF THE ALTERNATIVES LISTED IN TABLE A CANNOT BE USED.

*Using biologically contaminated water to wash hands, dishes and food contact surfaces or for cooking with a sanitizing step/cook step at the end is not always effective in destroying parasites and viruses that may be present in the water.

Dishwashing machines are not an acceptable means of cleaning and sanitizing food contact ware during a boiled water event, as per the State Office of Environmental Health.