



February 28, 2020

Boil Water Notice Issued for Town of Lake Cowichan

Island Health has directed the Town of Lake Cowichan to issue a boil water advisory effective immediately. This advisory will be effective until further notice. Residents are advised to boil their water before consumption, until that advisory is lifted. For additional information go to:

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/drinking-water/what-do-during-boil-water-notice/boil-water-faqs>

Island Health required that the Town revises the Emergency Response Plan to state that a Boil Water Notice is to be issued when turbidity level exceeds 3 NTU at point of disinfection.

3.0 NTU turbidity has been used as a guideline value because turbidity above this level has been linked to an increased probability of adverse health effects.

The Town of Lake Cowichan's source water is an unprotected body of water and at this time there is not a Watershed Protection Plan. Because a specific source of the turbidity cannot be specified, we are unable to determine whether the make-up is organic or inorganic material. At this time, we cannot be sure that harmful pathogens are not present at levels that exceed the capacity of the chlorination to properly treat the water. Due to these reasons, Island Health is considering this an elevated risk event which requires the issuance of a Boil Water Notice."