

Guidelines for Child Care Centres during a Water Interruption

Notification - once you are aware of the water interruption

- Advise Region of Peel, **Public Health** at 905-799-7700 or Public Health Inspector directly
- Advise your Ministry of Education Program Advisor

What your health inspector will ask you?

- Was the water interruption expected or unexpected?
- What is the estimated time for repair? What is the duration/timing of shut off (during or after operating hours)?
- Who is shutting down the water? eg. Private contractor/property manager and Public works?
- What is your contingency plan? eg. alternate location, notify parents
- Are you currently dealing with any outbreaks?
- Why was the water shut off?
- Is the problem on your property line or the public side?

Considerations when operating during a water interruption:

Drinking Water

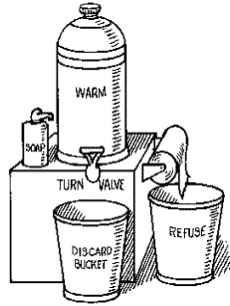
- Use commercially bottled water

Food Preparation

- Use disposable items
- Consider catering in for unexpected shut offs
- Make food in advance for expected shut offs

Hygiene

- Unexpected – purchase commercially bottled water
- Expected – get portable hand sink
- Provision must be made for an adequate hand washing station. Where a sink with plumbing is not available, a large container of warm water (e.g., a coffee urn with a spigot), a soap dispenser, a roll of paper towels and a bucket to collect waste water may be adequate.



- Dispose of waste water in toilet. Do not dispose in a storm sewer, or a river/creek.
- The use of disposable gloves can provide an additional barrier to contamination, but gloves cannot replace hand washing. Frequent and thorough hand washing remains the first line of defense in preventing food-borne illness.
- Alcohol based hand rub (recommended 70%) can be used if hands are not soiled

Diapering

- Use disposable gloves to change diapers and wash hands with potable water (as described above) and follow-up with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when complete.
- Wash children's hands with potable water (as described above) or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after drying your hands.
- Disinfect the diapering area between children with your usual sanitizer following manufacturer's concentration and contact time
- Wash your hands or alcohol based hand rub (recommended 70%) can be used if hands are not soiled

Water to Flush Toilets

- Flush the toilet by dumping a bucket of water into the toilet bowl all at one time. This will clear the bowl.

Returning to normal operations after water interruption

Advise your Public Health Inspector, 905-799-7700. When the water is back on, air in the pipes may make the water cloudy and your plumbing may vibrate or make noise. If this happens, you can remove the air by briefly turning on your taps from the lowest to the highest faucet in the building (that is, starting in the basement/first floor, and finishing on the top floor). Flush the toilets as well.

- You should only have to run the water for 10 to 30 seconds, but keep running it until the water is clear, cold to the touch and any vibration or noise has stopped.
- Public Works will test the chlorine residual water upstream and downstream from the event.
- Peel Health may test the chlorine residual water inside the facility.