








# REASONS *for* WATER ADVISORIES

REASON	EXPLANATION
 <p>Chemical and physical water quality parameters in excess of acceptable concentrations</p>	<p>There are minerals, chemicals, or metals, at levels higher than recommended guidelines for healthy drinking water, or a dangerous substance has entered the water.</p>
 <p>Distribution system integrity failure</p>	<p>Storage tanks, pipes, and other plumbing in physical distribution and delivery systems have been compromised. There is potential for contamination or loss of water service. Contaminants can get into the drinking water because the water system has been damaged or loses pressure, backflow has occurred, or parts of the system are old and worn out.</p>
 <p>Excessive turbidity compromising treatment and water quality</p>	<p>Cloudy water (turbidity) has a higher amount of organic and inorganic matter that provides food and shelter to disease-producing organisms such as viruses and bacteria. The turbidity can make disinfection less effective.</p>
 <p>Flushing/fire flow testing</p>	<p>Flushing/fire flow testing improves water quality by eliminating matter that would otherwise contribute to turbidity. During flushing the water may contain higher levels of contaminants as they are flushed from the system.</p>
 <p>Inadequate construction or protection of distribution, storage, and other waterworks</p>	<p>Water storage and distribution systems are not built correctly and/or protected against threats to water safety.</p>
 <p>Inadequate operations and maintenance</p>	<p>Water treatment, storage, distribution, and delivery systems are not operated correctly or kept in good repair.</p>
 <p>Insufficient treatment or disinfection residual</p>	<p>Disease-producing organisms, such as viruses and bacteria, are not adequately treated due to insufficient amounts of disinfectant or other problems in water treatment.</p>










Check out the Interior Health water advisory map to search the entire Interior Health region for current drinking water advisories, and to learn more about your water suppliers, the types of advisories, and reasons for these advisories.

[drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca](http://drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca)



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 Routine maintenance and planned works	Water storage, treatment, distribution, and delivery systems require maintenance in order to continue to provide safe drinking water.
 Source water quality deterioration or contamination	Contamination of water at its source results in challenges to treatment and overall quality of drinking water.
 Surveillance data indicated drinking water linked to outbreak or illness	Water testing shows that contaminants in the water are a cause of illness. An increase in the number of reports of people getting sick with similar symptoms or the same germ, around the same time and place, who probably didn't all eat the same food, could mean there is or was a problem with a water system.
 Unacceptable water quality results (microbiological)	Water is unsafe due to an unacceptably high amount of disease-producing organisms such as viruses and bacteria. Water samples failed testing and show there could be germs in the water that can make you sick.
 Unapproved water supply system or construction works	Water supply is threatened by construction and modification of storage, distribution, and delivery systems that have not been tested to meet safe standards.
 Untreated drinking water at risk of containing pathogens	Drinking water has not been treated to prevent the risks posed by disease-producing organisms such as viruses and bacteria.
 Water treatment and equipment failure	Problems with the equipment and resources used to maintain clean drinking water lead to unsafe water. A breakdown has occurred in the equipment and processes used to make the water safe to drink.



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