Barry-Eaton District Health Department
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Boil Water Advisory

Required Actions for **Restaurants and Retail Food Facilities** During a Boil Water Advisory

Immediate Operational Requirements:

Drinking Water
Do not use tap water for drinking unless it has been:

- Boiled for at least one minute and cooled before use, or
- Obtained from a commercially bottled water source, or
- Hauled from an approved public water supply in a covered, sanitized container, or
- Supplied by a licensed drinking water hauler.

Beverage Preparation
Discontinue use of equipment that automatically fills with municipal water, including:

- Post-mix soda dispensers
- Auto-fill coffee makers
- Instant hot water dispensers
- Beverage machines connected to the water supply

Use only commercially bottled or properly boiled water for beverage preparation.

Ice Machines

- Discard all existing ice.
- Drain and sanitize ice machines before returning them to service after the advisory is lifted.
- Discontinue ice production during the advisory.
- Use commercially manufactured ice if needed.

Food Preparation

- Discard ready-to-eat foods prepared with water that may have been contaminated.
- Use only commercially bottled water or water boiled for at least one minute when preparing food products requiring water.

Produce Washing

- Discontinue washing produce with tap water.
- Use pre-washed packaged produce or produce washed with approved bottled or boiled water.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Can we continue washing dishes?
Yes. Facilities may continue washing dishes using either:

- A properly functioning mechanical dish machine, or
- A three-compartment sink, provided that the final step includes an approved sanitizing process in accordance with the Michigan Food Code.

What should we do with our ice machine?
Ice machines must be:

1. Emptied and drained.
2. Taken out of service during the advisory.
3. Thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before being placed back into operation after the advisory is lifted.

Can employees wash their hands with tap water?
Yes, handwashing may continue using the facility's water supply. Employees should:

- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Dry hands with disposable paper towels.
- Follow proper handwashing procedures at all times.

Can we remain open during the advisory?
Many establishments can remain open if they follow the emergency procedures outlined above and maintain safe food handling practices. Operations that cannot meet these requirements may need to discontinue affected activities until safe water service is restored.