

BOIL WATER ADVISORIES

The MTA issues a boil water advisory when there is a concern that the drinking water may be contaminated or unsafe to consume without taking further precautions. This advisory is essential to protect public health and safety. Here's some information on why, when, and what to do in response to a boil water advisory:

Why a Boil Water Advisory is Issued:

There are several reasons why a boil water advisory might be issued:

- **Contamination:** The most common reason is the suspicion or confirmation of bacterial contamination, such as E. coli or coliform bacteria, in the water supply. Other contaminants, such as chemical pollutants, can also trigger advisories.
- **Water Main Breaks:** When there's a significant water main break or disruption in the water distribution system, contaminants from the environment can enter the water supply.
- **Natural Disasters:** Flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, or other natural disasters can disrupt water treatment and distribution systems, making the water unsafe to drink.
- **Equipment Failures:** Malfunctions in water treatment facilities or infrastructure can lead to unsafe water conditions.

When a Boil Water Advisory is Issued:

A boil water advisory is typically issued when there is a confirmed or suspected risk to the safety of the drinking water. The timing can vary but is often issued as soon as the issue is identified. The advisory remains in place until the water is deemed safe to drink. The duration can vary depending on the nature of the contamination and the steps taken to rectify it.

What to Do in Response to a Boil Water Advisory:

If you receive a boil water advisory from the MTA, here's what you should do:

- **Boil Water:** Boil all water intended for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula. Bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one minute, then let it cool before using it. Boiling kills harmful bacteria and pathogens.
- **Use Bottled Water:** If boiling isn't feasible, use bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- **Avoid Ice and Ice-Making:** Don't use ice from your ice maker or ice trays in drinks unless you have boiled and cooled the water first.
- **Washing Dishes:** Use boiled water or a dishwasher with a sanitizing cycle to wash dishes and utensils.
- **Handwashing:** It's safe to use the water for washing hands and bathing. Just avoid swallowing it.

Remember, it's crucial to follow the advisory until it is officially lifted by the MTA. The MTA will provide information on when the water is safe to consume without boiling. Always stay informed by checking with the MTA for updates and follow any guidance we provide. Boil water advisories are essential for safeguarding public health during water quality issues.