

## \* WATER OUTAGES

## \* BOIL ADVISORIES

\* Food Service Operations \* Retail Food Establishments \* Schools

An adequate supply of potable water is an essential public health requirement for a food service operation (FSO), retail food establishment (RFE), and a school, to continue to remain open in the public's interest.

If there is a discontinuation of potable water as a result of a water outage or a "boil advisory" by the water authority, a FSO, RFE, or school, may need to close until a potable water supply is returned. A FSO, RFE, or school needs to contact the health department to see if it may be permitted to remain open if alternate potable water supplies are provided.

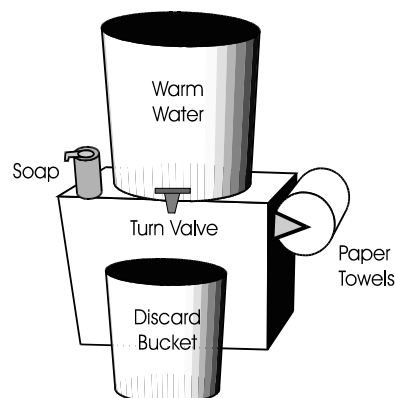
Examples of alternative sources of water are:

- Commercially filled water bottles: individual use or bulk containers depending on need.
- Clean and sanitized igloo type coolers filled with potable water from an alternate location.
- Boil the water, if an option, for two minutes prior to use.

When alternate water supplies are to be used during an outage or advisory, the following requirements must be met:

**HANDWASHING:** Three acceptable methods are:

- Antibacterial towelettes
- Hand sanitizer removed with a paper towel
- Igloo type cooler filled with potable water and supplied as illustrated:



Hand washing activities must not be compromised by reducing the number of washings or the length of washing time.

**Equipment Washing and Sanitizing:**

- Water from commercially filled containers, or
- Boil the water, if an option, for two minutes, prior to use, or
- Use disposal trays, plates, cups, utensils, etc. to minimize water demand on alternate supplies.
- Automatic dishwashers may be used for pre-wash only. Equipment must then be washed, rinsed and sanitized in potable water.

**Drinking Water:**

- Individual, commercially filled water bottles, or
- Clean, sanitized igloo type cooler filled with potable water  
It is recommended that the number of coolers provided, either equal or exceed the number of drinking fountains in the school.

**Food Preparation:**

- Boil the water prior to use, if this is an option, or
- Water from commercially filled containers

**Restroom:**

- Provide sufficient water to flush the toilet

**Alternate Equipment and Water Supplies per Function**

Function	Towelettes	Hand Sanitizer	Igloo Cooler	Bulk Water Container *	Bottled Water *	Boil Water 2 minutes	Non-Potable Water
Hand washing	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Drinking			√	√	√		
Equipment and utensil washing and sanitizing				√	√	√	
Food preparation				√	√	√	
Toilets				√	√		√

\* Potable Water

Having to use an alternate water supply during a water outage or boil advisory may seem to be an extreme and expensive requirement, however, the other option is to close the business or school.

- For extended disruptions in water supplies, arrangements can be made to have storage tanks filled by a registered water hauler. Contact the health department for assistance in choosing the right materials and supplies.
- **Ice Machines and Soda Pop Dispensers**  
These machines will need to be shut down, cleaned, and sanitized prior to use, once potable water is available.

Water outages do happen and are a fact of life. Planning what to do during an outage or advisory is good business.

### **Requirements during a water outage**

- Provide safe water for food prep, hand washing, washing equipment and utensils
- Provide sufficient water for flushing toilets
- Provide an approved method for hand washing

If any of these conditions cannot be met, you must close your facility.

### **PUBLIC WATER AUTHORITIES IN MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

Village of Dresden	754-1263
Muskingum County Water	453-0678
Village of Frazeyburg	828-2901
Maysville Water Authority	849-2428
Village of New Concord	826-7671
Village of Philo	452-7111 or 674-4895
Village of Roseville	697-0322 or 697-7310
City of Zanesville	452-7111
Village of South Zanesville	454-0492 or 453-3113