

# Lincoln Trail District Health Department

108 New Glendale Road

P.O. Box 2609

Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702-2609

(270) 769-1601

Fax (270) 765-7274



## Boil Water Advisory Procedures: Public

### Safely using water in your home during a “Boil Water Advisory”

#### Why Do I Have To Boil My water?

Your water may be contaminated with bacteria. Contamination may be due to equipment failure, broken water lines, leaking pipes in the system, or insufficient disinfectant in the water supply.

**The water should NOT be used for drinking, making infant formula or juices, cooking, making ice, making coffee or tea, washing fruits or vegetables, or brushing teeth.** For these purposes, boiled or bottled water should be used. The water should be brought to a strong, rolling boil for at least 3 minutes. If there are children in the home, place the pot on the back burner to avoid scalding. Boil only as much water in a pot as you can comfortably carry without spilling. **Discard all ice and disinfect ice cube trays. Make ice using boiled, cooled water.**

#### Can I Take A Bath?

It is safe to take a shower or bath with untreated water, but be careful not to swallow any water. Use caution when bathing children and infants; consider giving them a sponge bath to reduce the risk of them swallowing water.

#### Can I Shave?

It is safe to shave as usual

#### Can I Use The Water For Hand Washing?

Yes, untreated water can be used for hand washing, but should be followed with an alcohol based hand disinfectant containing more than 60% alcohol.

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580 WESTPORT ROAD  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42702  
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## Can I Use My Dishwasher?

Yes, you can use your dishwasher to wash dishes, but you should follow washing your dishes by sanitizing them in a mixture of 1 teaspoon of unscented bleach per 1 gallon of lukewarm water for 1 minute.

## Can I do Laundry?

Yes, it is safe to use untreated water for laundry. Be sure and check water for clarity before laundering.

## Do I Still need to Boil Water IF I Have a Water Filtration Device Installed?

Yes, a water filtration device does not make the water safe to drink or cook with. Boil all water before cooking or drinking.

## I Already Drank the Water, Will I Get Sick?

Most people who drink this water will not get sick. If you do get sick the symptoms are similar to food poisoning: nausea, diarrhea, cramps, and possibly a mild fever.

## What Should I Do If I Have Symptoms?

The most important thing to do is avoid dehydration. Drink plenty of fluids and avoid drinks with caffeine. If you are concerned about your health contact your health care provider.

## What Should I Do After The Boil Water Advisory Is Lifted?

- Flush all of your faucets by running cold water for at least 1 minute.
- If your refrigerator is equipped with an ice maker and water dispenser: Throw out the ice, change the filter cartridges, flush the water dispenser for 3-5 minutes, run the ice maker for 3 hours then throw out ice, wash and sanitize the ice bin.
- Follow owner's manual for cleaning and sanitizing all other appliances such as water softeners.

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