

# Warning Alert: Water Boil Order in Effect for the City of Peck until further notice

## Important Public Health Notice: Immediate Action Required

### Overview of Water Boil Order

A water boil order has been issued for the city of Peck, effective immediately upon restoration of water services and continuing until further notice. This precautionary measure is intended to safeguard public health following an unexpected disruption in water service, which may have compromised the safety of the water supply. Residents, businesses, and all institutions within city limits are strongly advised to observe the guidelines outlined below until the order is officially lifted.

### Reason for the Boil Water Order

Water boil orders are typically enacted when there is a possibility that drinking water has been contaminated with bacteria or other harmful microorganisms. In the case of Peck, the order follows a period of interrupted water service due to unforeseen circumstances, such as infrastructure repairs, natural disasters, or maintenance that has impacted water pressure or supply. The temporary loss or alteration of pressure can introduce contaminants from the environment into the water system, making it unsafe for consumption without proper treatment.

### Potential Contaminants

- Bacteria, including E. coli and coliforms
- Viruses
- Protozoa, such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium
- Other possible chemical contaminants from soil or surface water

These organisms and chemicals can cause illness if ingested and are particularly dangerous for children, the elderly, and individuals with compromised immune system

## Instructions for Residents and Businesses

During the order, it is imperative that all water intended for consumption or food preparation is brought to a rolling boil for at least one (1) minute. This process kills most bacteria and pathogens, rendering the water safe for use. Below are specific recommendations:

### What Water Should Be Boiled?

- Water for drinking
- Water used in food preparation or cooking
- Water used for brushing teeth
- Water given to pets
- Water used to wash fruits and vegetables
- Water for making ice (discard any ice made after the water service disruption)

### Alternative Water Sources

- Bottled water may be used as a safe substitute for drinking and cooking.
- If boiling is not possible, consider purchasing pre-boiled water from local vendors or emergency services.

### Water for Bathing and Cleaning

- Bathing and showering with tap water is generally considered safe as long as water is not swallowed or allowed into the mouth or open wounds.
- Hand washing with soap and tap water is acceptable, but hands should be thoroughly dried. For extra precaution, use boiled or bottled water for washing hands, especially before handling food or when caring for vulnerable individuals.
- Disinfect dishes and utensils with boiled water or a dishwasher using a high-temperature cycle.

## Special Considerations

### For Vulnerable Populations

- Infants, elderly individuals, and those with weakened immune systems should be especially cautious and avoid unboiled tap water altogether.
- Schools, daycares, nursing homes, and healthcare facilities must take extra measures to ensure water safety for their occupants.

### For Commercial Establishments

- Restaurants, cafes, and food service providers are required to follow all water safety protocols. Only boiled or bottled water should be used in food preparation and dishwashing.
- Failure to comply could result in temporary closure by public health authorities.

## How to Properly Boil Water

1. Fill a clean pot with tap water.

2. Heat the water until bubbles rise rapidly to the surface, indicating a rolling boil.
3. Maintain a rolling boil for at least one (1) minute.
4. Allow the water to cool naturally. Store in clean, covered containers.

Boiled water can be refrigerated for later use. Be sure to prevent contamination by keeping boiled water covered and using clean utensils.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Is it safe to use tap water for washing clothes?**

Yes, washing clothes with tap water is safe. Pathogens of concern are not absorbed through skin contact with clothing.

### **Can tap water be used for watering plants?**

Yes, tap water can be used for watering household plants and gardens.

### **How do I know when the boil order is lifted?**

The city of Peck will notify residents and businesses through local media outlets, public signage, official social media channels, and direct communication. Updates will be provided regularly as water safety tests are conducted.

## **Health Risks Associated with Contaminated Water**

Consuming or using water that has not been properly treated may result in gastrointestinal illness, including symptoms such as:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Fever

In severe cases, exposure to contaminated water can lead to dehydration or more serious health complications, especially in those with underlying medical conditions.

## **Steps Being Taken by City Authorities**

The city of Peck's water department is actively working to:

- Restore water services safely

- Conduct thorough testing of water quality
- Inform the public about risks and precautionary measures
- Coordinate with state health officials to ensure compliance with safety standards

Water samples are being taken from multiple locations throughout Peck to monitor for any signs of contamination. Only when all tests confirm the absence of harmful microorganisms will the order be lifted.

## **How Residents Can Stay Informed**

Residents are encouraged to:

- Monitor local news broadcasts and official city announcements
- Sign up for emergency alerts via the city's website
- Contact the city's water department for specific questions or concerns
- Follow guidance from health professionals during the boil order period

## **Conclusion**

A water boil order is a serious but routine public health safeguard. By following the guidelines above, residents and businesses can minimize health risks and protect themselves and others until water safety is fully restored. City officials appreciate the cooperation and patience of everyone in Peck as services are brought back online and the situation is resolved. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

Stay alert, stay informed, and keep your families safe.