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Public Alert: Boil Water Notice

Irish Water and Sligo County Council

Lough Talt

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Date of Boil Water Notice: 11th of January 2019

It has come to the attention of Irish Water and Sligo County Council that the water supply served by the **Lough Talt Public Water Supply** is contaminated with cryptosporidium. Following consultation with the Health Service Executive, Irish Water and Sligo County Council are issuing a Boil Water Notice with immediate effect to protect the health of consumers.

This notice applies to all consumers on the Lough Talt Public Water Supply and consumers on the Ogham water scheme which is served from the Lough Talt supply. All customers must boil their water before drinking. A map of the Lough Talt and Ogham schemes, detailing the areas affected, is available on www.water.ie and www.sligococo.ie. (copy shown here also)

Areas : All persons served by the Lough Talt Public Water Supply and the Ogham group water scheme. This includes for the following district metered areas in County Sligo;

Curry, Killoran, Carrowcushely, Glenn-Kinnagrelly, Carrownacarrick, Kilmacteige, Bellahy, Achonry, Talt-Castleoye Trunk, Aclare, Tobercurry, Kesh, Achonry-Ballymote Trunk, Moylough, Templehouse, Ballymote, Muckelty, Rockfield, Annagh, Oldrock, Cloonacool, Quarryfield, Banada, Killavel, Branchfield-Collooney

This notice also applies to the following district metered areas in County Mayo;

Cloontia, QuarryField, Doocastle,

- 6: Where a Boil Water Notice is in place, **you can prepare infant formula from tap water that has been boiled once (rolling boil for 1 minute) and cooled beforehand.** Bottled water can also be used to make up infant formula. All bottled water, with the exception of natural mineral water, is regulated to the same standard as drinking water. It is best not to use bottled water labelled as 'Natural Mineral Water' as it can have high levels of sodium (salt) and other minerals, although it rarely does. 'Natural Mineral Water' can be used if no other water is available, for as short a time as possible, as it is important to keep babies hydrated. If bottled water is used to make up infant formula it should be boiled once (rolling boil for 1 minute), and cooled in the normal way. Ready-to-use formula that does not need added water can also be used.
- 7: Anyone suffering from diarrhoea for more than two days should contact their general practitioner and provide a stool sample for testing. They should continue to drink plenty of boiled or bottled water.

Great care should be taken with boiled water to avoid burns and scalds as accidents can easily happen, especially with children.

What is *Cryptosporidium*?

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite that is found mainly in the faeces of infected humans or animals. Humans are infected when they swallow contaminated water or food, or touch contaminated objects and then touch their mouths before washing their hands well.

What are the symptoms?

Diarrhoea that lasts 1 to 2 weeks, often accompanied by abdominal cramps, tiredness, nausea, vomiting and low grade fever. People usually develop symptoms 1 to 12 days after swallowing the parasite. If you are worried contact your GP.

What can I do to prevent getting it?

- Use boiled water for:
 - Drinking
 - Drinks made with water
 - Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
 - Brushing of teeth
 - Making ice
- Wash your hands carefully after going to the toilet, changing nappies, and before preparing food.
- Be careful when bathing small children to ensure that they do not swallow any bath water.
- As *Cryptosporidium* can be passed from animals to humans, ensure that you and your children always wash your hands after handling any animals (including pets) or after visiting a farm.
- Do not drink unpasteurised milk.

Who is most at risk?

Persons with an impaired immune system, young children and older people are most at risk of picking up *Cryptosporidium*.

How long before the boil water notice can be lifted?

We do not know at present, but Irish Water will continue to liaise with the Health Service Executive with a view to lifting the Boil Water Notice as soon as practicable.

8: How will we keep you informed?

You will be kept informed through the following media:

Website: www.water.ie ; www.sligococo.ie

Irish Water Customer Contact Centre: 1890 278 278

Local Media –Ocean FM, Sligo Champion and Sligo Weekender.

(IW registered vulnerable customers will be directly contacted)

9: Awareness for commercial premises:

Irish water request that this Boil Water Notice is placed in a prominent position within your commercial premises

Remember to boil water as advised until further notice

This notice only applies to those on the Lough Talt Public Water Supply Scheme and the associated group water scheme.

Anthony Skeffington

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Irish Water

Tom Kilfeather

Director of Services

Sligo County Council