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Public Alert: Boil Water Notice

Irish Water and Galway County Council

An Cheathrú Rua (Carraroe) **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SCHEME**

Date of Boil Water Notice: 5th of March 2016

It has come to the attention of Irish Water and Galway County Council that the water supply served by the **An Cheathrú Rua (Carraroe) Public Water Supply** is contaminated with Cryptosporidium. Following advice from the Health Service Executive, Irish Water and Galway County Council are issuing a Boil Water Notice to protect consumers.

This notice only applies to consumers on the **An Cheathrú Rua (Carraroe) Public Water Supply and water supply areas listed below** who must **boil water before use**. A map of the scheme, with a list of townlands affected, will be made available on www.water.ie and www.Galway.ie as soon as possible.

Areas : An Cheathrú Rua (Carraroe), Carraroe Village, Cinn Mhara, Bealadangan, Camas, Casla, Gleann Trasna, Muckanagh

1: Water must be boiled for:

You Must Boil Your Water for:

- ☐ Drinking
- ☐ Drinks made with water
- ☐ Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
- ☐ Brushing of teeth
- ☐ Making of ice

2: What can you use water for:

You can use your Water for the following:

- ☐ Personal hygiene, bathing and flushing of toilets but not for brushing teeth or gargling.
- ☐ Boil water by bringing to a vigorous, rolling boil and allow to cool. Cover and store in a refrigerator or cold place. Water from the hot tap is not safe to drink.

3: Caution:

Please ensure the following:

- ☐ Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink.
- ☐ Caution should be taken when bathing children to ensure that they do not swallow the bathing water.
- ☐ Discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges. Make ice from cooled boiled water.

4: Only use Prepared Water (boiled and cooled) for the following situations.

- ☐ Use water prepared for drinking when preparing foods that will not be cooked (e.g. washing salads).

☐ Prepare infant feeds with tap water that has been brought to the boil once and cooled. Do not use water that has been re-boiled several times. If bottled water is used for the preparation of infant feeds it should be boiled once and cooled. If you are using bottled water for preparing baby food, be aware that some natural mineral water may have high sodium content. The legal limit for sodium in drinking water is 200mg per litre. Check the label on the bottled water to make sure the sodium or 'Na' is not greater than 200mg per litre. If it is, then it is advisable to use a different type of bottled water. If no other water is available, then use this water for as short a time as possible. It is important to keep babies hydrated.

5: Advice:

Note the following advice:

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 any drinks made with water, making ice,
 - Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
 - Brushing of teeth,
 - 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 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 impaired immune systems, young children and older people.

6: Take Care:

Always Take Care:

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

7: How long before the boil water notice can be lifted?

We do not know at present, but Irish Water and Galway County Council 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.galway.ie

Irish Water Customer Contact Centre: 1890 278 278

Local Media –Radio Na Gaeltachta, Galway Bay FM

(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 does not apply to other areas and water schemes in County Galway

Seamus Granahan

Regional Manager

Irish Water

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Director of Services

Galway County Council