NORTHERN KENTUCKY
INDEPENDENT DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Promoting and protecting the health of Northern Kentucky by providing public health services essential for a safe and healthy community

ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT • PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD • PHAB Advancing public health performance

Water Emergency Operational Procedures for Retail Food Establishments

During a water service supply emergency, including boil water advisories, chemical contamination, or pressure reduction, water may serve as a source of contamination for food, equipment, utensils, and hands. In order to protect public health, the following guidelines are to be followed until a water service supply emergency has been lifted.

NOTE: In case of a total loss of pressure (no water) or a chemical contamination, establishments shall close immediately.

Hand washing – Tap water may be used. Follow up with hand sanitizer after washing hands.

Drinking water – Use bottled water only. Disconnect fountains or post *Do Not Drink* signs.

Ice – Shut off ice machine and leave off until the water service supply emergency has been lifted.

Soda (pop) fountains – Shut off dispensing fountains. Use canned or bottled drinks only.

Coffee and tea – Use bottled water, or water that has been boiled for 3 minutes before brewing.

Fruits and vegetables – Use bottled water, or water that has been boiled for 3 minutes, to clean fresh fruits and vegetables. Pre-packaged, ready-to-eat (pre-washed), salad mixes may be used. Spray units or misters, which periodically spray water on products to maintain freshness shall be shut down. Leave off until emergency has been lifted. Clean and sanitize before use.

Three Compartment Sinks – Washing, rinsing, and sanitizing procedures shall be followed with a chlorine (unscented bleach) solution of 50-100ppm, not to exceed 200ppm. Other approved sanitizers, such as quaternary ammonia, can be used. Mix in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.

Dishwashers – Automatic dishwashers, sanitizing with chemical or hot water, can be used provided the machine is operating in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.

Wiping cloths – Wiping cloth buckets shall be maintained with a chlorine (unscented bleach) solution of 50-100ppm, not to exceed 200ppm. Other approved sanitizers, such as quaternary ammonia, can be used. Mix in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines. Wiping cloths shall be stored in buckets when not in use.

After the emergency is lifted, any equipment that is connected to the municipal water supply shall be cleaned and sanitized per manufacturer's guidelines. Replace any in-line filters.

If you have any questions, please call 859.341.4151.