



## Summary of Procedures by Local Health Departments for Food Establishments During a Water Emergency

When notified of a water emergency such as contamination of a water supply with *E. coli* or inadequate water supply of potable water, the Director of Health shall:

- \_\_\_ 1. Consult with DPH Drinking Water Section (DWS) at 860-509-7333 and the Food Protection Program (FPP) at 860-509-7297 during regular business hours.  
**After hours, DWS and FPP can be reached at 860-509-8000.**
- \_\_\_ 2. Develop an action plan in collaboration with the DWS and FPP with alternative procedures for those facilities being served by the water system.
- \_\_\_ 3. Discontinue the use of the contaminated water. Close all food service establishments and other food establishments under the Director of Health's (DOH) authority. DOH should issue order to close.
- \_\_\_ 4. Evaluate the extent of contamination, number of affected food establishments, and feasibility of provision of approved alternate water source. Alternative sources of water must be provided for drinking purposes, washing of food and food contact surfaces, and for cooking.
- \_\_\_ 5. Provide information to the food establishments on interim measures required for reopening:
  - Demonstration of approved alternate interim water source
  - Assurance of adequate supply
  - Review and approval by local health department
- \_\_\_ 6. Document interim measures approved by the DOH for monitoring purposes.
- \_\_\_ 7. Monitor food establishments to ensure closure or that approved interim measures are in place.
- \_\_\_ 8. Provide information for returning to original approved water supply once emergency is over.
  - Sanitizing and/or flushing of equipment connected to water supply as required
  - Cleaning and sanitizing of all food contact surfaces
  - Evaluation and approval by Director of Health
- \_\_\_ 9. Rescind closure order by Director of Health

While food service establishments are the primary types of establishments affected by water emergencies, other food establishments that may be affected by a water emergency should be considered such as:

- Child/adult day cares
- Caterers
- Itinerant vendors
- Campgrounds/ Youth Camps
- Food Banks
- Assisted living facilities
- Food producers/manufacturers
- Farms and farm kitchens
- Institutions such as schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, group homes, and correctional facilities.