

WATER QUALITY ADVISORY

March 26, 2024

RE: WATER QUALITY ADVISORY AT LUND WATERWORKS DISTRICT

Vancouver Coastal Health is issuing a Water Quality Advisory (WQA) on March 26, 2024 for the water system at Lund Waterworks District (LWD).

Why is a Water Quality Advisory being issued?

Drinking water systems with a surface water source, like the LWD, are at risk of containing pathogens that can cause illness if untreated. The vast majority of these pathogens, like bacteria and viruses, can be adequately addressed using chlorine disinfection. Some pathogens, such as protozoan parasites, are present in surface water and are not easily disinfected by chlorine.

For this reason, a second barrier to disinfection, such as UV treatment, is required for surface water supplies in British Columbia. Given that there are technical and financial barriers to installing UV treatment at your water system at this time, a WQA is being issued. Further, total organic carbon (TOC) in the source water poses an ongoing challenge. TOC impacts the ability to treat the water to the full standard required and leads to elevated levels of chlorination by-products, including Trihalomethanes (THM). THM tests conducted by LWD, have revealed that THM levels regularly exceed the maximum allowable concentration (MAC) as per the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ).

What does a Water Quality Advisory mean?

A Water Quality Advisory means the risk is low, and only some customers are advised take extra precautions when ingesting the water.

Who should take extra precautions?

Individuals with very weak immune systems are advised to take extra precautions. These can include: the young, elderly, immunocompromised and pregnant.

What should these customers do?

There are two options for individuals wishing to further minimize their risk.

1. Customers may bring water intended for drinking, washing fruits or vegetables, making beverages or ice, and brushing teeth to a full boil for 1 minute.
2. Customers may install a Point of Use or Point of Entry treatment device at their individual home for potable water use. A small water systems professional can provide advice on what type of unit will be suitable for your home.

Alternatively, individuals may choose to use a different potable water source, such as bottled water, for these purposes.

For more information:

More information is also available here: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/preventing-water-borne-infection>

Sincerely,

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