

Small Drinking Water Systems

Newsletter

Spring 2019 | Issue 3



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Welcome Back!

This is issue #3 of the *Small Drinking Water Systems Newsletter*, a newsletter designed to remind Small Drinking Water System owners and operators of the requirements of Ontario Regulation 319 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

The goal of each issue is to highlight certain aspects of the regulation and describe how an owner can put these regulatory requirements into practice.

It is our hope that this information will be useful to you. Your feedback is welcome and encouraged. If you have questions about your drinking water system and requirements, contact your area Public Health Inspector.

If you have feedback regarding this newsletter, contact **Renee Duval**, Public Health Inspector, Safe Water Program Lead. duvalr@timiskaminghu.com or 1-866-747-4305, Ext. 2241.

Seasonal Start-up: What to do before you open?

If your facility has been closed for a period of more than 60 days (eg: seasonal shut-down), during which time the system has not been supplying treated drinking water to the public, then you must:

- Notify** the health unit (in writing) of the:
 - opening date
 - Name & address of owner/operator
 - Name & address of SDWS (if different than owner or operator)
 - Results of the first water test
- Check** the drinking water intake, well, and water treatment equipment. Make sure that everything is working properly, and that you have spare parts on hand (eg: filters, UV bulb, quartz sleeve).
- Sample and test your drinking water for Total Coliforms and E. coli. Have the **results** prior to opening to the public.

Warning Signs: Follow these requirements

(Warning signs only permitted if included in the Directive document or in response to an adverse test result)

- Post the warning sign provided to you by the Timiskaming Health Unit.
- Post signs at all locations where your guests have access to water. This includes kitchen, bathroom and outdoor taps.
- Check signs weekly to ensure the signs are present in all locations and in good condition.
- Make a record of the check. Record the date, time, locations, and the name of the person that performed the check.
- Keep the record for at least 5 years.



UV alarming? **Don't ignore it or bypass it. Your water may not be safe.**

Ultraviolet disinfection is a well-established method for achieving adequate disinfection for drinking water supplies. Maintenance of your UV equipment is not only important to treat your drinking water – it is the law! You should always be aware of your own system's maintenance requirements.

If your UV disinfection unit, automatic shut-off or alarm feature fails, the system has the potential of delivering improperly disinfected water to users of the system.

Some typical maintenance activities for UV systems include:

- **changing your UV bulb**
- **cleaning your quartz sleeve**
- **cleaning your sensor**
- **changing the filters**



Check the manufacturer's instructions for required maintenance and schedules. If the UV alarm is sounding, or if the auto-shut off has triggered, there is a problem. It can't be ignored; it must be resolved.

Enforcement

During an inspection or risk assessment, issues of non-compliance may be addressed in a variety of ways: educational materials, extensions or enforcement. Please be aware that issues of non-compliance with Ontario Regulation 319/08 can result in fines issued by a Public Health Inspector, ranging from \$45.00 to \$295.00 depending on the severity of the infraction. The following are some examples of non-compliance and the associated set fines:

Offence	Section	Set
Owner/operator fail to ensure system is operated in accordance with requirements under the	subclause 6 (2) (c) (i)(ii)	\$295
Owner/operator fail to test water sample for E. coli — resume supply to users	clause 5 (6) (a)	\$295
Owner/operator fail to test water sample for total coliforms — resume supply to users	clause 5 (6) (a)	\$245
Owner/Operator fail to ensure sampling requirements are complied with	clause 6 (2) (d)	\$245
System providing treatment — owner/operator fail to ensure water treatment equipment operated according to manufacturer instructions	paragraph 2 of subsection 14 (1)	\$295
System providing treatment — owner/operator fail to ensure treatment equipment operated so free chlorine residual never less than 0.05 milligrams per litre	subparagraph 4 i of subsection 14 (1)	\$295
System providing treatment — owner fail to ensure proper maintenance of water treatment equipment	paragraph 5 of subsection 14 (1)	\$95
System providing treatment — ultra violet light disinfection equipment — owner/operator fail to ensure sensors are checked	subsection 14 (3)	\$295

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