

Galway County Council, Galway City Council & HSE West update

22 March 2007

The HSE West, Galway City Council & Galway County Council Incident Response Team is continuing to work closely together. The Team includes environmental and water services professionals, veterinary expertise, scientist, public and environmental health professionals, with advice from the Environmental Protection Agency and Health Protection Surveillance Centre.

-The reported numbers of new cases of cryptosporidiosis is continuing to increase

-Most recent test results on the water still indicate contamination

-Galway City Council and Galway County Council are continuing to carry out sampling of the water supplies and surveys of the water catchment area to try and establish possible sources of contamination

-From the health perspective, the HSE is continuing to investigate other possible sources of the infection, communicating with health professionals including GP's, health facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes and with food premises.

-The Environmental Health Department of the HSE West is continuing to visit and advise local food businesses and other premises on how they can best comply with the water boil notice

-A help-line continues to be in place should any premises preparing or serving food have any queries

-The Local Authorities are circulating notices and visiting schools to reinforce the importance of complying with the water boil notice.

-Information is available and updated regularly on www.galwaycity.ie and www.galway.ie.

-An information line is available at 091 – 509214 should members of the public have specific queries in relation to the area covered by the notice

HSE West, Galway County Council & Galway City Council once again remind people that it is now essential that people in the affected areas continue to boil water intended for drinking or food preparation. If you are unsure of the source of your water supply, it is advised to boil your water as a precautionary measure.

- ♣ For the advice of the public, water should not be used un-boiled for:
 - o Drinking
 - o Drinks made with water
 - o Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
 - o Brushing of teeth
 - o Making of ice.

- ♣ Water can be used for personal hygiene, bathing and flushing of toilets but not for brushing teeth or gargling
- ♣ Boil water and allow to cool. Cover and store in a refrigerator or cold place. Water from the hot tap is not safe to drink. Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink.
- ♣ Discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges. Make ice from cooled boiled water.
- ♣ Use water prepared for drinking when preparing foods that will not be cooked (e.g. washing salads, fruit and vegetables to be consumed uncooked)
- ♣ Prepare baby feeds with water that has been brought to the boil once and cooled. Do not use water that has been reboiled several times. Do not use bottled mineral water as most brands contain concentrations of minerals that are too high for babies.
- ♣ Anyone suffering from diarrhoea for more than two days should contact their general practitioner and provide a stool sample for testing. They should continue to drink plenty of boiled or bottled water