

# COLES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## BOIL ORDER GUIDELINES

Boil orders are posted by water companies when a break or some other event results in loss of pressure or introduction of contaminants into a water line. Loss of pressure or possible introduction of contaminants may allow pathogen presence and/or growth in the water line that could result in human illness. The size of the affected area is determined by the number of buildings served by that line. The water in the line must be tested for safety after repairs are made, usually an 18-hour test.

1. Water used in food preparation shall be obtained from an alternate source not affected by the boil order, or, if an approved source of potable water is not available and a heat source is available, boil the water at least 5 minutes. This includes, but is not limited to.
  - water for coffee, tea, other beverages, or water added to any food
  - water for ice
  - water for washing produce, or water used to thaw frozen foods
  - water to be used for employee hand washing
    - water used for washing dishes and utensils
    - water used in three compartment sink
    - water used for sanitizing solutions
2. Water fountains, soda fountains, coffee makers, ice machines and any other equipment with plumbed water shall not be used until the boil order is lifted and start-up procedures completed. Ice shall be discarded.
3. Dishwashing machines shall not be used until the boil order is lifted and start-up Procedures completed.
4. Bottled water, packaged ice, and water or ice from an unaffected, but approved, source may be used for any purpose.