

News Release

For immediate release:

Boil Water Advisory for Water Drawn From the Shebeshekong River, Carling Township

NORTH BAY, ON – The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (“Health Unit”) is advising residents of Carling Township who draw their drinking water directly from the Shebeshekong River to take extra precautions and to boil their water. A beaver dam let go early this morning discharging a significant amount of pond water into the Shebeshekong River. Residents may have an increased risk of contracting Giardia Lamblia (beaver fever).

Residents who draw their drinking water direct from the river are advised to boil their water for one full minute prior to using it for drinking, washing fruits vegetables, and brushing teeth.

Residents are also reminded that not all home water treatment and filter systems remove Giardia. Only filters with the following labels are designed to remove the parasite:

- Reverse osmosis
- Absolute pore size of 1 micron or smaller
- Tested and certified by NSF-Standard 53 for cyst removal
- Tested and certified by NSF –Standard 53 for cyst reduction.

The Health Unit encourages residents of Carling Township who develop enteric symptoms such as diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bloating and fatigue to contact their health care provider and seek medical attention.

Residents with questions concerning this issue, can call the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit at 1-800-563-2808 or 705-474-1400 ext. 5400 to speak with a Public Health Inspector.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Alex McDermid, Public Relations Specialist

P: 705-474-1400, ext. 5221 or 1-800-563-2808

E: communications@healthunit.ca



GIARDIASIS

What is it?

Giardiasis is an illness caused by the parasite Giardia. Once a person has Giardia, the parasite lives in the intestines and is passed in their stool. Once outside the body, Giardia can sometimes survive on surfaces for weeks or months

How is it spread?

A person can become ill with Giardia after:

- Drinking water or using ice made from water sources where Giardia may live (e.g. untreated or improperly treated water from lakes, streams, or wells).
- Swallowing water while swimming or playing in water where Giardia may live (e.g. lakes, rivers, springs, ponds, and streams).
- Eating uncooked or improperly prepared foods that contain Giardia parasites

What are the symptoms?

- Some people have no symptoms at all; while others may experience symptoms of diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bloating, fatigue, weight loss, and frequent passing of loose, pale, or greasy stools
- Severe complications from prolonged infection include arthritis and damage to the lining of the intestine

When do symptoms start?

After the parasite is ingested it can take as little as 3 days or as long as 25 days for a person to become ill.

How is it prevented?

- Do not swallow water while swimming in pools, hot tubs, interactive fountains, lakes, rivers, springs, ponds, streams or the ocean
- Do not drink untreated water from lakes, rivers, springs, ponds, streams, or shallow wells

If the safety of drinking water is in doubt do one of the following:

- Drink bottled water.
- Disinfect tap water by heating it to a rolling boil for 1 minute.
- Use a filter that has been tested and rated by National Safety Foundation (NSF) Standard 53 or NSF Standard 58 for cyst and oocyst reduction; filtered tap water will need additional treatment to kill or weaken bacteria and viruses.
- Protect well from surface water, especially during spring runoff.
- If you have a private water supply ensure you have it tested regularly.

For further information concerning water treatment, please contact the Environmental Health Program at 705-474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808, ext. 5400. For questions concerning Giardia please contact the Communicable Disease Program at ext. 5229.

References: Heymann, David L. (2015). Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 20th ed. Washington, DC. 234-236
American Academy of Pediatrics. Giardia Intestinal Infections. Red Book:
2018 Report of Committee on Infectious Diseases. 31st ed. 352-355



Your lifetime partner in healthy living.
Votre partenaire à vie pour vivre en santé.
myhealthunit.ca

Call Toll Free: 1-800-563-2808

 345 Oak Street West,
North Bay, ON P1B 2T2
 705-474-1400
 705-474-8252

 70 Joseph Street, Unit 302
Parry Sound, ON P2A 2G5
 705-746-5801
 705-746-2711



Name

- 2 -

Date