

BREW BAY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

2260 Brew Bay Road
Powell River, BC V8A 0L2

December 18, 2024

Brew Bay Improvement District Water Use Advisory

As recommended by Vancouver Coastal Health's Drinking Water Officer, the Brew Bay Improvement District is re-issuing a Water Use Advisory for 2025.

Why is the advisory being issued ...

Water systems using a surface water source such as a river, run the risk of containing pathogens which can cause illness if not treated. The vast majority of these pathogens can be adequately addressed using chlorine disinfection. Some pathogens such as protozoan parasites, can be present in the water and are not easily treated with chlorination.

For this reason, a secondary barrier, such as UV treatment is now required for surface water supplies in British Columbia. Although, the Brew Bay Improvement District has a secondary Sand Filtration treatment in place, due to unresolvable operating issues, our tertiary UV system is currently offline for the foreseeable future. Consequently, as a precautionary measure, Vancouver Coastal Health recommends a Water Use Advisory be issued.

What does a Water Use Advisory mean ...

A Water Use Advisory means the risk is low, and only some system users are advised to take extra precautions when ingesting the water.

Who should take extra precautions ...

Individuals with very weak immune systems are advised to take extra precautions. This can include the very young or elderly, those with compromised immune systems, or those who are pregnant.

What extra precautions are recommended ...

Members who decide they should take extra precautions should:

- Bring to a full boil for 1 minute any water intended for consumption (drinking, making beverages or ice), washing foods for consumption, or brushing teeth,
- Use an alternative water source, such as bottled water, for consumption purposes
- Install a personal point of use water treatment device as recommended by a water treatment specialist

For more information ...

A good source of information for water usage by those who are immunocompromised can be found here:

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/preventing-water-borne-infections-people-weakened-immune-systems>