

as faxed

Health  
Canada Santé  
Canada

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Your file

Votre référence

Our file

Notre référence

May 20, 2014

Chief Eli Moonias and Council  
 Marten Falls First Nation  
 c/o Band Office  
 Ogoki Post  
 Nakina, ON, P0T 1L0

RECEIVED MAY 23 2014

Dear Chief Moonias:

Re: Support for Community Recommendation for Bathing Infants

Hello, hope you are having a good spring season. This letter is being sent in follow-up to a discussion held last week with Linda Moonias, Band Manager. We discussed the public health seriousness of the situation and the need for people to take the Boil Water Advisory very seriously if the community water supply is not being filtered.

It is my understanding that the community is experiencing less bottled water available for drinking as mothers are using more bottled water to bathe their babies. In light of the community water supply not being filtered pending repairs, the increase in piped water turbidity and colour (especially with the ice melt and surface water thermal inversion), the pending delay in getting a new replacement water plant filter in the community, and the long term Boil Water Advisory it is my understanding that recommendations have been occurring in the community to use potable water sources to bathe babies.

**This office fully supports the recommendation to bathe babies in a potable safe source of water (rather than in unsafe water piped water under a Boil Water Advisory). Many mothers with babies may request additional reasonable supplies of bottled water for this purpose as boiling a lot of extra water for this purpose may prove difficult for them.**

Our Boil Water Advisory poster provided to the community (as enclosed) clearly recommends against bathing babies in water under a Boil Water Advisory as they can become ill if they ingest bacteria, protozoans or other micro-organisms. Some protozoan organisms need to be filtered out of the water as chlorination is not always adequate to kill them. As the current water plant treatment system lacks proper filtration, this is a concern. The recommendation is made as a precautionary measure to protect the babies and optimize their health status. This

recommendation is a general proactive public health recommendation as made to all communities in similar circumstances by public health staff. Giving a baby a sponge bath is only an acceptable very short term interim measure but babies require proper bathing opportunities for optimal health.

We are not aware of any operational secondary system like a reverse osmosis unit currently in use. It is our understanding that the Band is currently still receiving bottled water shipments on an interim basis to address some of the issues noted above.

If the shortage of bottled water becomes apparent and there are potential health concerns, please give us a call to discuss this. We would also be willing to participate in any meetings the Band may have on the subject with AANDC or other agencies or partners.

You are most welcome to direct calls to me at 807-346-0306 (office telephone land line) for community issues. If I am travelling or working out of the office, the switchboard main telephone number is 807-345-1443 where your call can be directed accordingly. My email address is [kevin.lundstrom@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:kevin.lundstrom@hc-sc.gc.ca).

Please do not hesitate to call us if any public health advice is needed on this very important topic.

For Healthier Communities,



Kevin Lundstrom, CPHI (C)  
Environmental Health Officer

Encl.

cc: Deon Peters, Water Plant Operator  
Linda Moonias, Band Manager  
Evelyn Baxter, Band Health Director  
Cora Hunse, Health Canada CHN  
Amy Montgomery, HC Senior EHO  
Dan Baxter, AANDC, Thunder Bay

Band O&M Manager  
Lucy Rosie Achneepineskum, CHR  
Aaron Wesley, Matawa Tech. Services  
Francine Pellerin, Matawa Tr. C. Health  
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