



News Release

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Cowlitz County: Carrolls Water customers advised to boil water

E. coli bacteria found in one of the community's wells

OLYMPIA — The state Department of Health today advised all Carrolls Water Association customers to boil their tap water before drinking it.

A water sample pulled from one of their wells contains potentially harmful *E. coli* bacteria. *E. coli* can cause short-term illnesses such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and headaches. The state also is asking residents to conserve water because the wells are producing less water than usual.

The water system is in Cowlitz County about 5 miles southeast of Kelso. It serves 176 homes, an elementary school, and a country store. The water system delivered notification to all customers today. Carrolls Elementary School is using bottled water and portable hand-washing stations.

The advisory will remain in effect until the problem is resolved. The water association will disinfect and flush the system, and then collect new samples.

Residents should boil all tap water used for drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, washing dishes, and making ice. The state recommends heating the water to a brisk boil for one minute, then allowing the water to cool before using.

Carrolls Water Association customers who have questions about their water should call Columbia Technical LLC at 360-281-2650. Tips on conserving water are available through [EPA's Water Sense](#) website or Water Use It Wisely's [100 Ways to Conserve](#).

The [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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