



# News Release

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## ***E. coli* bacteria causes boil-water advisory for Pe Ell residents**

OLYMPIA—The Town of Pe Ell issued a boil-water advisory today after detecting potentially harmful *E. coli* bacteria in the community’s water during routine water quality monitoring.

Some forms of *E. coli* can cause short-term health effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and headaches. The bacteria may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with weak immune systems.

Until the advisory is lifted, residents should use boiled or bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, washing dishes, preparing food, and making ice. To kill bacteria, tap water should be boiled for one minute and allowed to cool before use.

The state Department of Health is working closely with the community to find the source of contamination and eliminate it. The advisory affects all of the town’s 935 residents.

The Lewis County Health Department is working with food service establishments on safety precautions during the advisory. Mayor Spencer Nichols announced that the town’s annual July 4 celebration will go on as planned.

“The county health department is working with our vendors to make sure the food and beverages they sell are safe,” Nichols said. “Rest assured, we’re going to have a safe and festive July 4 celebration.”

Pe Ell residents who have questions can call 360-291-3543. The [Department of Health website](#) (www.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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