



## VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE DO NOT CONSUME NOTICE

In consultation with Northern Health and the Drinking Water Officer, the Village of McBride is hereby issuing a “DO NOT CONSUME NOTICE” pursuant to Section 14 of the *Drinking Protection Act*.

### **AREA OF APPLICATION**

This Do Not Consume Notice applies to all users of the Village of McBride water supply system (Operating Permit #2098) and should be followed by all persons using water from this system.

### **REASON FOR NOTICE**

This Notice is issued as a result of a consultation with Northern Health and at the request by the Village and in accordance with Section 14(1) (c) the drinking water officer considers that there is, was or may be a threat to the drinking water provided by a water supply system.

The current Turbidity in the McBride Community Water System’s reservoir was measured at around 23 NTU and at the water source (Dominion Creek) it was measured at more than 75 NTU. The turbidity is believed to be trending upward in the coming days. At normal operating conditions Turbidity should be below 1 NTU.

Turbidity is caused by suspended organic and inorganic materials in the water source leading to colored water. Turbidity at this level renders the current treatment systems of the Village ineffective. Thus, pathogens are likely to survive in the water system. Population at risk include the high risk group such as elderly, young children and infants, immunocompromised, pregnant women and people with underlying health issues.

Below are the reasons for issuing the DO NOT CONSUME NOTICE:

- 1) Significant rain fall had led to high water level and freshet to the Dominion creek. Potential landslides at the higher elevation might expose water source to possible chemical contaminant
- 2) Due to the impact of negative pressure on the reservoir when water level drops, the Village of McBride will be allowing turbid water from the water source to enter the reservoir again starting at 10 PM June 24, 2020
- 3) The current Turbidity level at the reservoir is 23 NTU with some location in the distribution system higher than 10 (Limit of the hand held turbidity meter)
- 4) There’s no current guidance document regarding the effectiveness of boiling water under excessive turbidity level. Thus, erring on the safe side is crucial.
  - a. Once the water starts to flow again into the reservoir from the water source, it is expected that the turbidity will rise dramatically in the distribution pipe
- 5) Weather forecast anticipate showers on the coming Friday and Saturday (June 26 & 27, 2020)

### **The Village of McBride is dealing with the issue by doing the following steps:**

1. The Village of McBride will be hauling water from Prince George for residences for consumption and food preparation purposes
2. All food service establishments (premises that provide food to the public for immediate consumption) will be required to shut down in consultation with Northern Health as no bulk water will be available to the food service establishment. Thus, Northern Health has reasons to believe that food service establishments will not have sufficient potable water to ensure safe handling of food

3. Continue to monitor the situation and provide continuous updates to the residence of McBride via website, social media and mail out flyers.

### **HOW TO RESPOND**

Residents are asked to not use tap water for consumption and food preparation purposes.

For personal consumption during this Do Not Consume period it is recommended that residents use bulk water provide by the Village of McBride

Local food service establishments (premises that provide food to the public for immediate consumption) are required to shut down until the current water situation is resolved

### **OBLIGATION OF OWNERS OF PUBLIC PREMISES**

Owners of public premises served by this water system must:

- a) Notify the public that the drinking water is not potable water and that no one should drink the water by posting a sign at every sink or drinking water fountain accessible to the public;
- b) If normal business practices provide an opportunity, verbally advise any person who may use the domestic water system for a domestic purpose that the water is not potable water
- c) **All food premises must ensure that equipment connected to the community water system is dis-connected. For example, soda machine, slurpee machines, ice machine**

### **DURATION OF THIS NOTICE**

This Notice remains in effect unless and until another public notice is issued upon the request of the Drinking Water Officer advising that the Notice has been amended or rescinded.

### **WHAT IS A “DO NOT CONSUME NOTICE”**

A DO NOT CONSUME NOTICE is one of three types of public notices commonly used by Drinking Water Officers. The decision whether to request or order issuance of one of these notices rests with the discretion of a drinking Water Officer and at the request of the local government, but in general, they are used in the following circumstances:

*When a community's water system contains or has reason to believe that it contains a contaminant, such as a chemical that cannot be removed from the water by boiling. The water should not be used for: drinking; brushing teeth; cooking; washing fruits and vegetables; making infant formula or other drinks, soups or ice cubes; for bathing infants and toddlers; or for pets. It may continue to be used for domestic purposes such as showering, bathing, and sanitary waste.*

## **WHAT TO DO DURING A DO NOT CONSUME NOTICE**

DO NOT CONSUME NOTICES are also called do not drink advisories. These advisories tell the public that they should **not** use their tap water to:

- cook
- drink
- feed pets
- brush their teeth
- make soups or ice cubes
- wash fruits and vegetables
- make infant formula or other drinks
- any other food products that require water

During a do not consume advisory, **do not** use tap water to bathe those who need help, such as:

- infants
- toddlers
- the elderly

Give them sponge baths instead so they avoid swallowing the water by accident.

The water can still be used to shower and bathe (avoid swallowing the water):

- adults
- older children

## **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions concerning this advisory, please contact the Village of McBride at (250)569-2229 or the Drinking Water Officer (Tom. Chen) at 250-565-2150.

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit



## Corporation of the Village of McBride

# HOW TO ACCESS POTABLE WATER

**June 24, 2020**

**To All Village of McBride Residents**

**The Bulk Water Filling Station will be Located on Holdway Street**

**The Station will be Open from 7 am to 8 pm Starting June 25, 2020**

**Please bring water containers to a maximum size of 5-gallon jugs and nothing smaller than 4 litre size**

**Please let Attendant know if you do not have a container and a pre-filled 5-gallon water jug will be provided (limited supply). If this Water Jug is not returned to the Village of McBride, you will be responsible for a \$10 deposit fee**

**PLEASE FOLLOW DIRECTIONAL AND SOCIAL DISTANCING SIGNAGE**

**PLEASE GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME TO HAVE WATER CONTAINERS FILLED**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE AT [www.mcbride.ca](http://www.mcbride.ca) FOR UPDATES**