



**ELGIN ST. THOMAS
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**DRINKING WATER ADVISORY
To Consumers of Richmond Community Water Incorporated Supply**

June 10, 2010

Water test results received by Elgin St. Thomas Public Health on May 14, 2010 and June 6, 2010 report that the turbidity levels for the Richmond Community Water Incorporated Supply are above acceptable levels. The turbidity levels found in the system were 9 NTU and 1.08 NTU respectively. The acceptable level in drinking water is 1 NTU or less. Turbidity does not, by itself, cause any negative health problems. However, increased turbidity in drinking water can interfere with disinfection and create an environment that can allow microbial organisms to grow more easily. In large enough concentrations, the organisms can cause people who drink water with high turbidity levels to experience symptoms like cramps, diarrhea, or headaches.

While turbidity levels have now returned to acceptable levels, the Richmond Community Water System remains very sensitive sudden episodes of high turbidity as a result of rainfall. Given that episodes of high turbidity are unpredictable, consumers are advised as follows. DO NOT BOIL the water in an attempt to make it safe to consume. Boiling may actually increase the concentration of any matter that may be causing the turbidity.

Consumers should find an alternate safe supply of drinking water which can include:

- Bottled water
- Municipal water
- Water that has been tested and has a nitrate level of less than 10 mg/L.

Consumers of this water system are reminded that a Drinking Water Advisory related to high nitrate levels remains in place. Families with young children, especially infants under 1 year of age, should continue to obtain an alternate safe supply of drinking water for drinking, making infant formula or juice and for cooking.

If you need more information, please call a Public Health Inspector at the Elgin St. Thomas Public Health at 631-9900.

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