

Public Health Advisory

Do not consume advisory for Iqaluit drinking water

October 12, 2021 Iqaluit, Nunavut

Due to the possibility of petroleum hydrocarbons at the Iqaluit water treatment plant, the Department of Health is advising Iqalummiut <u>not</u> to consume tap water for drinking or cooking, until further notice. This includes boiled water, filtered water through commercially sold filters such as Brita filters and filtered water through reverse osmosis systems.

Pregnant women, newborns and infants should not take baths or be bathed in tap water. Do not use tap water to mix infant formula.

The tap water may still be used for the following purposes:

- Laundry.
- Cleaning.
- Showers (avoid swallowing water).

Previous test results found that the risk of contamination at the time was low and that the water was safe to drink. Observations at the Iqaluit water treatment plant today found evidence of potential hydrocarbons contamination.

Active investigations of City's drinking water system and additional testing of the drinking water are ongoing. The Department of Health anticipates receiving additional test results from out of territory environmental laboratories in about five business days.

The City of Iqaluit will provide additional information on access to an emergency source of drinking water shortly. Updates will be provided by the City as they become available.

Media Contact:

Danarae Sommerville Communications Specialist Department of Health 867-975-5712 dsommerville1@gov.nu.ca