

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Boil Water Notice for NET Health Food Permit Holders  
Tyler, Texas (Saturday, February 20, 2021)**

The Environmental Health Department of the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health) recognizes the challenging times that all food establishments have endured this past year and we encourage your continued support in keeping the customers health and safety as your number one priority moving forward.

Without potable water, it becomes difficult to perform many basic functions for food service operations (e.g., washing dishes, employees washing their hands, providing beverages, storing purchased ice, storing boiled water).

**If your city or municipality is under a Boil Water Notice, you should not operate AT ALL without an emergency plan in place.**

Please contact your NET Health inspector to discuss an emergency plan of action that your food establishment can manage during this time. The State of Texas has provided a guidance document to help you develop a plan of action during this time.

**<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/foodestablishments/pdf/GuidanceDocs/Guidance-for-RTE-under-Boil-Order.pdf>**

NET Health will want you to be able to explain and demonstrate that you are able to adhere to this guidance document. Examples include planning to have enough water for hand washing and ware washing, and having warm potable running water such as a spigot container remaining in the "ON" position through the hand washing process.

Public water systems are asking everyone to conserve water, so it is important for all food establishments to also reduce the burden on the water system and to either operate on a small scale or to not operate until your city's Boil Water Notice has been lifted. If an emergency plan of action is not achievable at this time, then it is necessary to stay closed until the boil water notice is lifted and you have thoroughly flushed all water lines, soda lines, and ice machines.

**Please keep in touch with your local news outlets, with the municipality where your establishment is located, and with your water company to find out the status of your food establishment's boil water notice.**

Learn about our full menu of public health services at <https://www.MyNETHealth.org>.