



# UPDATE: BOIL WATER NOTICE

## OLALLA WATER SYSTEM

May 26, 2025

As directed by the Interior Health Authority (IHA), the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) would like to remind all Olalla residents that the Boil Water Notice remains in effect even with chlorination in place.

On Friday, May 23, 2025, the bacteriological results were reported for the samples taken on Wednesday, May 21, 2025. This report indicated that Total Coliform bacteria are present throughout the distribution system, including the storage Reservoir. No Total Coliform bacteria were reported from the source well. Based on the level of bacteria reported, the RDOS decided to reinstate the chlorination of the system as a precautionary measure.

Over the past couple of weeks, the RDOS has been conducting extensive bacteriological testing of the Olalla water system to determine the source of the contamination entering the system. The bacteriological data received to date indicates that there is a potential source of contamination entering the storage Reservoir. On May 2, 2025, the RDOS hired a contractor with a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to inspect the inside of the storage Reservoir, and no apparent sources of contamination were noted from this inspection.

The RDOS is now planning to isolate the storage Reservoir from the distribution system to further determine if the source of contamination is associated with the storage Reservoir. This will require some additional programming of the pump control system in advance to allow the system to modulate the speed of the Well Pump to continually maintain a set pressure in the distribution system while the Reservoir is isolated. Once this programming is complete, chlorination will again be temporarily removed from the system while the Boil Water Notice remains in effect, allowing for continued bacteriological testing.

The RDOS will notify residents in advance of any further changes to the chlorination of the Olalla water system.

For further information, please contact RDOS Public Works at 250-490-4106 or 250-490-4135 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

**For after-hours water emergencies, please call RDOS Regional Dispatch at 250-490-4141.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

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