

# WATER QUALITY ADVISORY

September 6, 2023

Gillies Bay Improvement District – Water System  
PO BOX 102  
Gillies Bay, BC  
V0N 1W0

## **RE: WATER QUALITY ADVISORY AT Gillies Bay Improvement District**

Vancouver Coastal Health is issuing a Water Quality Advisory (WQA) on September 6, 2023 for the water system at Gillies Bay Improvement District (GBID).

### **Why is a Water Quality Advisory being issued?**

Drinking water systems with a surface water source, like the GBID, are at risk of containing pathogens that can cause illness if untreated. The vast majority of these pathogens, like bacteria and viruses, can be adequately addressed using chlorine disinfection. Some pathogens, such as protozoan parasites, are present in surface water and are not easily disinfected by chlorine.

For this reason, a second barrier to disinfection, such as UV treatment, is required for surface water supplies in British Columbia. Given that there are technical and financial barriers to installing UV treatment at your water system at this time, a WQA is being issued.

### **What does a Water Quality Advisory mean?**

A Water Quality Advisory means the risk is low, and only some customers are advised take extra precautions when ingesting the water.

### **Who should take extra precautions?**

Individuals with very weak immune systems are advised to take extra precautions. These can include: the young, elderly, immunocompromised and pregnant.

## What should these customers do?

There are two options for individuals wishing to further minimize their risk.

1. Customers may bring water intended for drinking, washing fruits or vegetables, making beverages or ice, and brushing teeth to a full boil for 1 minute.
2. Customers may install a Point of Use or Point of Entry treatment device at their individual home for potable water use. A small water systems professional can provide advice on what type of unit will be suitable for your home.

Alternatively, individuals may choose to use a different potable water source, such as bottled water, for these purposes.

## For more information:

More information is also available here: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/preventing-water-borne-infection>

Sincerely,



Recoverable Signature

X

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Nguyen', written over a horizontal line.

Signed by: michael.nguyen@vch.ca

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