



Yuułu?i?ath Government

Water Is Safe to Consume

March 21, 2022

Yuułu?i?ath Questions Answered

hitaću Water Is Safe to Consume – Advisory Issued for Infants 2 and under

On March 4, 2022, a letter from the First Nations Health Authority on behalf of Yuułu?i?ath Government was distributed to hitaću residents and re-issued March 18, 2022. The Notice issued instructed:

“Do not use your tap water for preparing infant formulas”

Your drinking water has tested above the newly established maximum acceptable concentration for manganese. Therefore, do not use your drinking water to prepare formula for bottle-fed infants. Use an alternate source of safe drinking water for preparing formula for infants such as bottled water or other safe source.

Water that exceeds the maximum acceptable concentration for manganese can still be used for:

- ☞ Consumption (cooking and drinking) by non-vulnerable groups
- ☞ hand washing
- ☞ bathing and showering

A sub notice was issued with further information on the Water Advisory and information on Manganese. Below are a few quick facts on manganese and hitaću’s water system.

MANGANESE QUICK FACTS:

- ☞ Feeling or getting ill is not a side effect of manganese.
- ☞ Manganese will not affect you right away, but **over a longer period of exposure it can affect those under the age of 2.** *This advisory has recently been added to the Canadian drinking water standards.*
- ☞ With pregnant and feeding mothers, the body should be able to regulate the levels of manganese well, those concerned can switch water sources. If you have concerns, please speak to your health care provider.
- ☞ All those above the age of 2 will not be affected by the current levels of manganese. Should the levels reach cautionary levels, we will notify the community to stop consumption.

WHY IS MANGANESE THERE?

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral which gets picked up through the District of Ucluelet’s well field and comes through the water system to the hitaću community; community levels will be lower compared to the closer to the well field.



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COMMUNITY WATER TESTING

hitaču's water is tested 3-5 times a day at different areas through the community by Yuułu?if?ath Government, certified water operators. Samples have been showing optimal levels in the water no signs of bacteria, or ecoli. YG lab results are double checked by a third-party lab. TDS (total dissolved solids) in the system has been low to mid 50s which is near perfect drinking water, TDS level **between 50-150** is considered as the most suitable and acceptable for consumption and safe water.

WATER USE & RESTRICTIONS

You are allowed to use the water for:

- ☞ Consumption, except for infants under the age of 2
- ☞ Cooking
- ☞ Hand washing, showering, bathing
- ☞ Washing dishes, laundry

We apologize for any areas of mis communication and understanding or concern. As a precaution we must issue informative notices and facts sheets on manganese which will offer more in-depth knowledge for stronger manganese exposure. At this time, we only advice infants are not to be fed tap water (or boiled tap water), all other residents of hitaču, the water is safe to consume.

Sincerely,

Yuułu?if?ath Government – Ucluelet First Nation