

DRINKING WATER

General information

Water quality on the island of Montréal is excellent. Most of the city's drinking water comes from the St-Lawrence River, Lac St-Louis and Rivière-des-Prairies.

The water is filtered and disinfected before distribution to ensure that it is safe to drink. All this is done in one of 6 water treatment plants in Montréal.

Regulations

Water quality is checked regularly to ensure it is drinkable and poses no health risks. The person in charge of the drinking water system follows the Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water, under the authority of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC). This regulation requires that the director of public health be informed of any anomalies or non-compliance with the regulation. Public health professionals cooperate with different partners to protect the population's health.

Type of advisory

Water quality is tested regularly. If an anomaly is detected, the person in charge of the drinking water system must issue an advisory to protect the health of the population. It is important to comply with the advisory until it is lifted.

Here are the different types of advisories you may have to follow:

- Boil water advisory or precautionary boil water advisory
- Drinking water advisory
- Water use advisory

Home water treatment systems

Home water treatment systems (e.g., Brita filter pitchers or water softeners) cannot eliminate microorganisms that can be harmful to health. Therefore it is important to follow the instructions when an advisory is issued.

Outdoor activities, camping or cottage living

It is important to be vigilant when doing outdoor activities, camping or staying in a cottage where the water source is unknown. To avoid health problems, always check the quality of the water before drinking it.

People at risk

Anyone can be at risk. But some people are more at risk of being affected:

- Infants
- Young children
- Older adults
- People with weakened immune systems

Symptoms to watch for

Drinking germ-contaminated water can cause symptoms such as the following:

- Diarrhea
- Stomach cramps
- Nausea
- Vomiting

If you have any questions about health risks during a boil water advisory, drinking water advisory or water use advisory, or if you have symptoms after drinking water that may be contaminated, call Info-Santé **811**.

Usefull links

For drinking water:

- [MELCC - Drinking water](#)
- [Quebec.ca - Drinking water contamination or shortage](#)
- [Quebec.ca - Contaminants in Drinking Water](#)
- [Montreal.ca - Drinking water](#)
- [Montreal.ca - Contamination or shortage of drinking water](#)

For boil water advisory:

- [MELCC - Questions et réponses concernant les avis d'ébullition \(in French only\)](#)
- [Montreal.ca - Boil-water advisory](#)

For drinkning water advisory and water use advisory:

- [Montréal - Drinking water advisory](#)
- [Montréal - Water use advisory](#)