


Island Health Performance Measures

Drinking Water Quality



Year to Date Performance	149	Performance Assessment		Baseline
Island Health Target	TBD	Performance cannot yet be assessed.		

What do we measure and why?

Drinking water quality is measured by the total number of days in which Public Notices for water quality were in effect, multiplied by the population affected for individuals served by the water system, as a rate per 10,000 population.

Clean and safe water is essential to maintain health and well-being. Public notices for water quality include Boil Water Notices, Water Quality Advisories, and Do Not Use Water Notices. They are issued by the water supplier when there is an increased health risk associated with use of drinking water. The goal of this measure is to quantify the impact of unacceptable water quality among Island Health residents. The impact is a function of both the duration as well as the number of people affected. A long-term boil water notice for a small population can have a similar impact to that of a large water supply on a short-term boil water notice, in terms of people-days at risk.

What is the target?

No target has been set for this new indicator. As historical data become available, targets will be set for future years.

How are we doing?

Island Health's Drinking Water Quality rate was 149 person advisory days per 10,000 population in 2018/19.

What actions are we taking?

Medical Health Officers have a mandate to ensure that water supply systems provide potable (clean drinking) water to their users. Since 2012, the Drinking Water Program has made significant progress in improving drinking water quality and the overall management of the Drinking Water Program. Drinking Water Officers conduct inspections and work with water suppliers to meet the Act and Regulation. The primary goal is to work with suppliers so they can provide potable water that is safe to drink without further treatment.

Significant challenges and opportunities remain in efforts to improve the quality of Island Health's water supply systems. The development of a drinking water quality indicator for annual monitoring will help inform progress.

Providing oversight to all water systems will require sustained effort, but these efforts will ensure that all users of water supply systems share a common outcome in having safe quality drinking water. Provincial support and direction should further inform smaller water supply systems of legislative requirements and help them to move forward in identifying definitive solutions for their water system issues.