

Public Health Alert

April 9, 2026

**Situation**

Routine sampling has identified elevated sodium concentrations in two local drinking water systems. As a result, Health Information Advisories (HIA) have been issued for the following water systems:

- Barwick/Chapple Drinking Water System (39.5 mg/L)
- Morley Municipal Housing Corporation - Morley Meadowside Manor (30.4 mg/L)

The Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) discloses active HIAs online through the [ChooseWise](https://choosewise.nwhu.on.ca) portal:  
<https://choosewise.nwhu.on.ca>.

**Issue**

Elevated sodium in drinking water may be of concern for individuals on sodium-restricted diets.

These levels exceed the Ontario Drinking Water Advisory threshold for sodium of 20 mg/L, as outlined in the *Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards (O. Reg. 169/03)* under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*. While sodium is not regulated by a Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC), exceedances above 20 mg/L require notification to the Medical Officer of Health. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) are responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the issue.

**Action Requested**

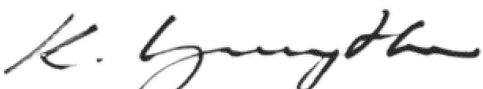
Health care providers are asked to consider this information when advising patients, particularly those with conditions requiring sodium restriction (e.g., hypertension, kidney disease, heart failure). Patients may wish to consult with their care provider regarding appropriate dietary and water consumption choices. Patients can consider using alternate sources of water (e.g. bottled water).

**Resources**

- [Ontario Regulation 169/03: Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards](#)
- [Technical Support Document for Ontario Drinking Water Standards, Objectives and Guidelines \(Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks\)](#)
- [Health Canada Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality – Sodium](#)

**Contact**

For further information, please contact:



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