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Public Alert: Boil Water Notice

Irish Water and Mayo County Council

Lough Mask

REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Date of Boil Water Notice: 2nd of September 2016

It has come to the attention of Irish Water and Mayo County Council that the water supply served by the **Lough Mask Regional Public Water Supply** is contaminated with cryptosporidium. Following advice from the Health Service Executive, Irish Water and Mayo County Council are issuing a Boil Water Notice to protect the health of consumers.

This notice applies to consumers on the **Lough Mask Regional Public Water Supply and water supply areas listed below** who must **boil water before use**. A map of the scheme, detailing the area affected, is available on www.water.ie and www.mayococo.ie.(copy shown here also)

Areas : All persons served by the Lough Mask Regional Public Water Scheme which include the following towns:

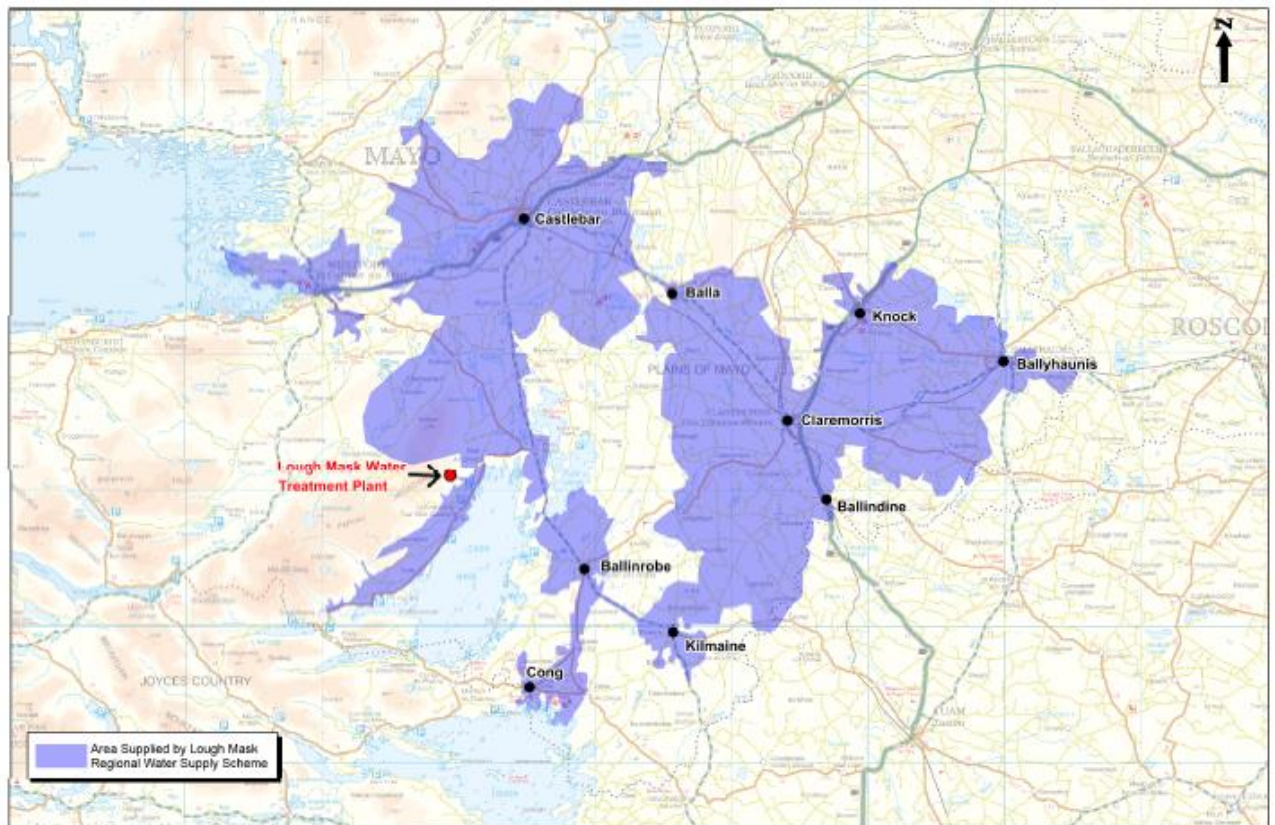
Castlebar, Westport (see below), Claremorris, Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Knock, Ballindine, Balla, Kilmaine, Cong and their associated hinterlands.

Also included are those areas of Westport served from the Lough Mask Regional Water Supply scheme which included the following areas:

Sheeaun, Knockranny, Buckwaria and Clogher GWS, Westport Town, Westport Quay, Belclare, West Road, Newport Road, Carrowholly, Ballinlough GWS, Cloghans GWS, Rosmoney GWS, Ballinrobe Road.

Also included are the Group Water Schemes listed below.

Abbeyquarter, Annagh GWS Ballyhaunis, Ballinvilla No.1 GWS, Ballinvilla No.2 GWS, Ballyfarna/Magheraboy GWS, Ballynanerron GWS, Began GWS, Belcarra GWS, Bunadober GWS, Carramore GWS, Carras District GWS, Cartron GWS, Cave GWS, Clogher (Turlough) GWS, Cloonboy GWS, Clooncah GWS, Coogue GWS, Crinlin/Ross GWS, Cuillatinny/Liscat GWS, Curraghmore/Cloonkeen GWS, Derry/Knock GWS, Derrymore/Srah GWS, Devlis/Knockbrack GWS, Druimminroe West GWS, Friarsquarter GWS, Garryduff GWS, Gurteen (Westport) GWS, Gurteen / Carrowkeel GWS, Horsepark GWS, Kilgarriff / Larganboy GWS, Kilkeeran GWS, Killawalla GWS, Knockatubber GWS, Lecarrow GWS, Lehinch No. 2 GWS, Lisaniska GWS, Lissatava GWS, Lough Mask Road GWS, Meelickmore GWS, Rahard GWS, Rockfield / Turlough 1 GWS, Rockfield No. 2 GWS, Skehavard (1) GWS, Skehavard (2) GWS, Srah GWS, Sraheen (Aughagower) GWS, Treenlaur GWS (Tourmakeady), Turlough / High Meadow GWS.



Area Supplied by Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme

Action to be undertaken.

- 1: Water must be boiled for:
 - Drinking
 - Drinks made with water
 - Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
 - Brushing of teeth
 - Making of ice- Discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges. Make ice from cooled boiled water.
- 2: Use water prepared for drinking when preparing foods that will not be cooked (e.g. washing salads).
- 3: Water can be used for personal hygiene, bathing and flushing of toilets but not for brushing teeth or gargling.
- 4: Boil water by bringing to a vigorous, rolling boil (e.g. with an automatic kettle) and allow to cool. Cover and store in a refrigerator or cold place. Water from the hot tap is not safe to drink. Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink.
- 5: Caution should be taken when bathing children to ensure that they do not swallow the bathing water.
- 6: Prepare infant feeds with water that has been brought to the boil once and cooled. Do not use water that has been re-boiled several times. If bottled water is used for the preparation of infant feeds it should be boiled once and cooled. If you are using bottled water for preparing baby food, be aware that some natural mineral water may have high sodium content. The legal limit for sodium in drinking water is 200mg per litre. Check the label on the bottled water to make sure the sodium or 'Na' is not greater than 200mg per litre. If it is, then it is advisable to use a different type of bottled water. If no other water is available, then use this water for as short a time as possible. It is important to keep babies hydrated.
- 7: Anyone suffering from diarrhoea for more than two days should contact their general practitioner and provide a stool sample for testing. They should continue to drink plenty of boiled or bottled water.

Great care should be taken with boiled water to avoid burns and scalds as accidents can easily happen, especially with children.

What is *Cryptosporidium*?

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite that is found mainly in the faeces of infected humans or animals. Humans are infected when they swallow contaminated water or food, or touch contaminated objects and then touch their mouths before washing their hands well.

What are the symptoms?

Diarrhoea that lasts 1 to 2 weeks, often accompanied by abdominal cramps, tiredness, nausea, vomiting and low grade fever. People usually develop symptoms 1 to 12 days after swallowing the parasite. If you are worried contact your GP.

What can I do to prevent getting it?

- Use boiled water for:
 - Drinking
 - Drinks made with water
 - Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
 - Brushing of teeth
 - Making ice
- Wash your hands carefully after going to the toilet, changing nappies, and before preparing food.
- Be careful when bathing small children to ensure that they do not swallow any bath water.
- As *Cryptosporidium* can be passed from animals to humans, ensure that you and your children always wash your hands after handling any animals (including pets) or after visiting a farm.
- Do not drink unpasteurised milk.

Who is most at risk?

Persons with an impaired immune system, young children and older people are most at risk of picking up *Cryptosporidium*.

How long before the boil water notice can be lifted?

We do not know at present, but Irish Water and Mayo County Council will continue to liaise with the Health Service Executive with a view to lifting the Boil Water Notice as soon as practicable.

8: How will we keep you informed?

You will be kept informed through the following media:

Website: www.water.ie ; www.mayo.ie

Irish Water Customer Contact Centre: 1890 278 278

Local Media –Mid West Radio, CRC FM, Connaught Telegraph, Western People, Mayo News, Mayo Advertiser, Tuam Herald.

(IW registered vulnerable customers will be directly contacted)

9: Awareness for commercial premises:

Irish water request that this Boil Water Notice is placed in a prominent position within your commercial premises

Remember to boil water as advised until further notice

This notice only applies to those on the Lough Mask Regional Scheme and the associated group water schemes.

Seamus Granahan

Regional Manager

Irish Water

Tom Gilligan

Director of Services

Mayo County Council