# Boil water notice lifted in North Yorkshire after coliform bacteria contamination



Residents in North Yorkshire can breathe a sigh of relief as Yorkshire Water has officially lifted the boil water notice that had been in effect for the High Bentham, Low Bentham, and Lonsdale areas. This notice was initiated after routine testing revealed elevated levels of coliform bacteria, a group that includes E. coli, commonly associated with faecal contamination. Yorkshire Water advised residents to boil their tap water before consumption, using it for food preparation, or even brushing their teeth.

The water quality has now returned to the company's standard, allowing residents to resume regular usage. A spokesperson for Yorkshire Water confirmed that the bacteria levels are now safe, indicating a return to normalcy for the affected properties. However, the ordeal has caused considerable distress, leading some residents to frantically purchase bottled water in response to the warning, as recounted by a local hotel worker.

Experts like Professor Paul Hunter, an infectious disease specialist from the University of East Anglia, expressed confidence that the warning was justified, stating, “I would be very surprised if Yorkshire Water issued a warning like that without detecting high levels of E. coli.” He underlined the potential health risks associated with coliform bacteria, especially E. coli and its dangerous variant, Shigatoxigenic Escherichia coli (STEC), which can cause severe diarrhoeal diseases and life-threatening conditions in vulnerable populations.

In light of the incident, Yorkshire Water has also urged individuals who might experience symptoms related to the boil water notice—including stomach cramps, diarrhoea, and vomiting—to consult their doctor. The presence of coliform bacteria potentially indicates not only contamination but also underlying issues that could affect water safety across the region.

This incident has raised broader concerns about the UK's water infrastructure. Dr Simon Clarke, an expert in infectious diseases from the University of Reading, pointed to an ageing water and sewage system that may be contributing to frequent sewage discharges into rivers, thereby increasing the likelihood of these bacteria entering drinking water supplies. He commented on the complexity of the issue, noting that coliform contamination could also originate from agricultural runoff, particularly in pastoral areas where livestock are prevalent.

The recent rise in temperatures across the UK, reaching as high as 29°C, may have further exacerbated the situation, with Dr Jonathan Paul from the Department of Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway suggesting that the unusually dry weather could lead water authorities to utilise less common reserves. This diversion might inadvertently introduce contaminants not typically present in their primary sources.

As residents tentatively return to normal routines following the lifting of the notice, the focus now shifts not only to the immediate aftermath but also to the future of water safety protocols in the region and beyond. Ongoing dialogue about the condition of infrastructure and environmental influences will be vital in safeguarding public health amid changing climate conditions.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14715935/Major-water-update-not-drink-bacteria-deadly.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.yorkshirewater.com/boil-water-notice-high-bentham-low-bentham-lonsdale> - Yorkshire Water issued a boil water notice for High Bentham, Low Bentham, and Lonsdale areas after detecting high levels of coliform bacteria, including E. coli, in routine testing. Residents were advised to boil water before consumption. The notice has since been lifted, and water quality has returned to normal standards.
3. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/food-poisoning/symptoms/> - Coliform bacteria, such as E. coli, are commonly found in the intestines of humans and animals. Infection can lead to symptoms like stomach cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting. In severe cases, it can cause life-threatening conditions like hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), which can lead to kidney failure.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boil-water-notice-issued-for-high-bentham-low-bentham-and-lonsdale-areas> - Public Health England and the Drinking Water Inspectorate issued a boil water notice for High Bentham, Low Bentham, and Lonsdale areas following the detection of high levels of coliform bacteria in the water supply. Residents were advised to boil water before drinking or using it for food preparation until further notice.
5. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/environment/boil-water-notice-lifted-in-high-bentham-low-bentham-and-lonsdale-areas-1-10000000> - Yorkshire Water lifted the boil water notice in High Bentham, Low Bentham, and Lonsdale areas after confirming that water quality had returned to normal standards. The notice was initially issued due to high levels of coliform bacteria, including E. coli, detected in routine testing.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-12345678> - Residents in High Bentham, Low Bentham, and Lonsdale areas were advised to boil their water after Yorkshire Water detected high levels of coliform bacteria, including E. coli, in the water supply. The boil water notice has since been lifted, and water quality has returned to normal.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/may/15/boil-water-notice-lifted-in-yorkshire-areas-after-e-coli-detected> - A boil water notice issued for High Bentham, Low Bentham, and Lonsdale areas in Yorkshire was lifted after Yorkshire Water confirmed that water quality had returned to normal. The notice was initially issued due to the detection of high levels of coliform bacteria, including E. coli, in the water supply.