# Boil Water Advisory Issued in Brixham After Cryptosporidium Outbreak



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**BRIXHAM, DEVON –** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has confirmed 22 cases of cryptosporidium, a waterborne illness, in Brixham, Devon. As a result, South West Water (SWW) has advised 16,000 households and businesses in the area to boil their tap water before drinking or using it for cooking.

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite that causes cryptosporidiosis, marked by symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pains, and fever. While most people recover within a month, the infection can be severe for those with weakened immune systems.

South West Water has set up two bottled water collection points and is delivering supplies to those in need. The company also announced a compensation of £100 for affected customers.

Elaine Hollier, an 80-year-old resident of Brixham, was hospitalized with severe dehydration and vomiting linked to the contaminated water. Her husband, Dennis Hollier, reported that authorities initially were unsure of her illness's cause.

The outbreak is believed to have originated from the Hillhead Reservoir, potentially due to contamination via a damaged air valve involving animal waste. The UK's Health Security Agency is currently investigating an estimated 70 additional cases of diarrhea and vomiting reported in the area.

Residents of Brixham, Boohay, Kingswear, Roseland, and northeast Paignton have been instructed to boil water before consumption. South West Water is collaborating with health authorities to resolve the issue.

**Impacted Areas:**
- Brixham
- Boohay
- Kingswear
- Roseland
- North-East Paignton

For further details, affected residents are encouraged to follow updates from South West Water and health officials.