

# **Town of Stoughton**

## **Board of Health**

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### **Food Establishment Emergency Policy for Water Outage**

Should any Stoughton Board of Health (BOH) licensed food establishment (FE) have a loss of water service (inadequate pressure or quality lasting more than 10 minutes) the person in charge (PIC) must cease operations and notify the BOH immediately. The FE cannot re-open until such time that an agent of the BOH has given permission to re-open. If the event occurs out of normal hours of the BOH office, a message can be left at the BOH office and the food establishment cannot re-open until contacted and/or visited by a BOH agent, which might not occur until the following day or possibly the next town office business day, if occurring on the weekend or a holiday.

FE food safety managers are encouraged to create emergency plans including special menus for limited operations when water is temporarily unavailable. These plans can be submitted for review by the BOH and if approved, can be used to stay open during outages for limited operations outlined within the plans for limited food preparation with any BOH conditions specific to the approval.

FE owners are encouraged to have back-up gravity sinks utilizing bottled water, to be prepared for outages, should they wish to stay open with limited operations for limited periods in accordance with any BOH approved emergency plans specific to their establishment and special menus.

Please note: every food establishment must have a designated PIC authorized by the business owner to enact emergency closures when applicable, under the above policy, who is onsite working at all times when open for business. Should any business fail to have a designated PIC at all times when open or should any business fail to enact emergency closure procedures under this policy as directed by which when applicable, the FE license can be suspended by a BOH Agent and/or revoked by the Board.

Policy effective date: October 12, 2018