



School | kura drinking water safety

By emphasising hygiene, maintenance, and training, most high-risk contamination scenarios can be avoided in maintaining a safe and clean drinking water supply for students, staff and visitors. It is especially important to note that tamariki are a high-risk group for infections.

Personal hygiene | hauora

Wash hands thoroughly before working on the water supply.

Wear clean clothes and use protective gear like gloves and masks. Clean clothes reduce the risk of introducing contaminants. Gloves and masks create a barrier, protecting both the water supply and the individual from potential exposure.

Avoid touching your face while working on the water supply. Touching your face can transfer germs from your mouth, nose, or eyes to the water supply.

Illness | māuiui

If you have any **stomach issues** like diarrhoea or vomiting, do not work on the water supply until you are fully recovered.

Inform the school principal | tumuaki

immediately if you feel unwell. Appropriate measures can then be taken to prevent potential contamination and protect the health of the school community.

Wait at least 48 hours after symptoms have stopped before returning to work on the water supply. This will reduce the risk of transferring any remaining pathogens to the water supply.

Equipment and tools

Keep tools and materials clean and properly stored. Proper maintenance and storage of tools and materials reduces contamination.

Use dedicated tools for your water supply system to avoid cross-contamination and minimise the risk of introducing contaminants from other tasks.

Worksite hygiene

Maintain cleanliness in work areas. This will keep contaminants from entering the water supply and compromising water quality and safety.

Regularly clean and disinfect the water treatment plant to reduce contamination risk.

Store spare parts, including cartridge filters and replacement UV lamps, in a clean and dry location. Parts should be kept free from moisture, dust and other contaminants so they work as intended and do not contaminate the water supply.

Restrict access to your water treatment system to authorised personnel.

Training

Train staff | kaimahi who manage the water supply in hygiene and safety. Training will help maintain a clean and safe environment, reduce contamination risks, and support the safety of the water supply.

Develop operating procedures for maintaining your water supply. These should include troubleshooting guides for critical issues such as UV alarms, drops in water pressure, discoloured water, and consumer complaints.

Testing and monitoring

Regularly inspect and maintain the water supply system. Routine inspections and maintenance are essential to identify and rectify potential issues before they compromise water quality.

Regularly test treated water for E. coli, total coliforms, and chemical contaminants to confirm water treatment is operating correctly.

Consistent monitoring helps to detect anomalies, allowing for prompt action.

Regularly test source water to confirm there are no contaminants at levels requiring treatment.

Keep records of all tests and monitor changes in water quality. A historical log of water quality will identify recurring issues and is vital for regulatory compliance.

Emergency procedures

Have a plan in place for dealing with contamination or other emergencies, so they can be managed quickly and effectively, minimising risks to health and safety.

Inform Taumata Arowai and affected individuals if contamination occurs. Prompt reporting helps prevent further exposure.

Ensure all staff | kaimahi know the emergency procedures and their roles in an emergency. Clear communication and understanding are crucial for an efficient response.

Chlorine use (optional)

Chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) is commonly used to disinfect water because it kills harmful bacteria and viruses, keeping water safe for consumption.

Measure the chlorine concentration regularly in treated water to check levels remain within safe limits. Under-treatment can allow harmful microbes. Over-treatment can lead to health issues.

Store chlorine safely away from other chemicals. Dispose of unused sodium hypochlorite after three months.