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City: Health issues not worry

Mexico City officials said Saturday that they have considered the possibility of health risks during a three-day suspension of water service, but have not treated them as a real concern.

The city has included health advisories among tips to conserve water in order to prevent people from reusing the liquid in unsanitary ways, and to encourage hand-washing despite the shortage, Civil Protection Secretary Elías Miguel Moreno Brizuela, told The News.

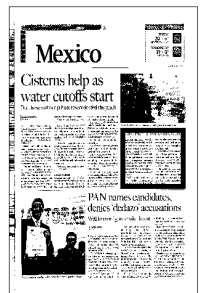
But D.F. health officials have not gone out of their way to warn the public about dangers such as the diseases that can fester in large buckets

of water, while some water experts say the suspension will not last long enough or be severe enough to pose a real health risk.

"I don't think the measures are going to affect people's access to basic water needs such as drinking," said David Barkin, a water expert at the Autonomous Metropolitan University at Xochimilco.

The suspensions in water service in the nation's capital will continue through the so-called drought season, when intense heat increases cases of dehydration and gastro-intestinal diseases.

-NACHA CATTAN/THE NEWS



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