



Dental Office Boil Water Advisory Plan

1. Post “DO NOT DRINK, wash your hands or brush your teeth” signs on all areas of the practice where municipal water is coming in.
 - i. i.e sinks, restrooms, toothbrush area
2. Reschedule patients with known immunocompromised health issues for routine procedures
 - a. If emergent issues arise, no municipal water should be used in the treatment of immunocompromised patients.
3. Do not wash hands in the sink, but use ABHR or bottled/boiled water
4. Do not use dishwashers or instrument washers, water quality should be monitored according to IFU
5. Fill ultrasonic instrument cleaner with bottled (filtered or distilled) water or boiled* water, not municipal water according to manufacturer's IFU
6. Any solutions that require dilution, use bottled (filtered or distilled) or boiled* water (ex: germicides, sodium hypochlorite)
7. Fill self contained dental unit water bottles, ultrasonic scalers, piezo scalers, sonic scalers or accessory dental equipment with bottled (filtered or distilled) water or boiled* water, according to manufacturer IFUs
8. Municipal water can be used with a Distiller or by boiling* the water
9. Reverse Osmosis Filtration System – IFU - “is designed to remove dissolved solids from municipal source water. By definition, this includes the removal of bacteria and other contaminants down to a molecular level.” But, “That being said, it is recommended to turn off the water supply to the [system] and not use it during boil water notices.” (VistaClear – ifu, turn off water to the system during boil water notice) (VistaPure – ifu, turn off water to system during boil water notice, after notice canceled drain the storage tank and sanitize) (Sterisil direct feed system – ifu, immediately shut off water to the system, after notice canceled replace all cartridges prior to use)

After Boiled water notice canceled.

1. Shock all dental unit water lines if dental office does not have a water bottle system.
2. Drain hot water heater after boil water notice canceled
3. Flush all water faucets from 1 minute to 30 minutes depending on the length of plumbing lines.
4. Drain tanks and replace all filters on reverse osmosis systems according to manufacturer’s IFUs.

*During a boil water order, water must be boiled for at least 1-5 minutes at a rolling boil and cooled to room temperature

CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings --- 2003 - MMWR, Dec 19 / 52(RR17);1-61

Boil-Water Advisories

A boil-water advisory is a public health announcement that the public should boil tap water before drinking it. When issued, the public should assume the water is unsafe to drink. Advisories can be issued after 1) failure of or substantial interruption in water treatment processes that result in increased turbidity levels or particle counts and mechanical or equipment failure; 2) positive test results for pathogens (e.g., *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, or *Shigella*) in water; 3) violations of the total coliform rule or the turbidity standard of the surface water treatment rule; 4) circumstances that compromise the distribution system (e.g., watermain break) coupled with an indication of a health hazard; or 5) a natural disaster (e.g., flood, hurricane, or earthquake) (346). In recent years, increased numbers of boil-water advisories have resulted from contamination of public drinking water systems with waterborne pathogens. Most notable was the outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the municipal water system was contaminated with the protozoan parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum*. An estimated 403,000 persons became ill (347,348).

During a boil-water advisory, water should not be delivered to patients through the dental unit, ultrasonic scaler, or other dental equipment that uses the public water system. This restriction does not apply if the water source is isolated from the municipal water system (e.g., a separate water reservoir or other water treatment device cleared for marketing by FDA). Patients should rinse with bottled or distilled water until the boil-water advisory has been cancelled. During these advisory periods, tap water should not be used to dilute germicides or for hand hygiene unless the water has been brought to a rolling boil for >1 minute and cooled before use (346,349--351). For hand hygiene, antimicrobial products that do not require water (e.g., alcohol-based hand rubs) can be used until the boil-water notice is cancelled. If hands are visibly contaminated, bottled water and soap should be used for handwashing; if bottled water is not immediately available, an antiseptic towelette should be used (13,122).

When the advisory is cancelled, the local water utility should provide guidance for flushing of waterlines to reduce residual microbial contamination. All incoming waterlines from the public water system inside the dental office (e.g., faucets, waterlines, and dental equipment) should be flushed. No consensus exists regarding the optimal duration for flushing procedures after cancellation of the advisory; recommendations range from 1 to 5 minutes (244,346,351,352). The length of time needed can vary with the type and length of the plumbing system leading to the office. After the incoming public water system lines are flushed, dental unit waterlines should be disinfected according to the manufacturer's instructions (346).

