

Cleaning and Disinfection Guideline for Dental Offices after a Drinking Water Advisory

During a Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory (PDWA) or Emergency Boil Water Order (EBWO)

Appointments for immuno-compromised patients such as HIV-positive individuals, chemotherapy and transplant patients, and congenitally immuno-compromised individuals should be rescheduled if possible.

Explain to all patients the impact the advisory or order has on dental services and indicate what procedures your office is following to protect their health.

Do not use any equipment which is directly connected to the water supply and does not have minimum treatment as part of the equipment (See water treatment section). If you are unsure the treatment will meet requirements please check with your local public health officer.

Water Treatment

In certain cases, continued operation may be permitted during an advisory or order where bacterial contamination is a concern. Ideally, this should be based on standard NSF conformance for treatment equipment (4-log virus removal). If the advisory or order is issued because of possible cyst (Cryptosporidium, Giardia) concerns, in certain cases, continued operation may be permitted. Ideally, this should be based on standard NSF conformance for treatment equipment to 3-log Cryptosporidium inactivation and 3-log Giardia inactivation. For information on NSF standards refer to fact sheet entitled [Certification of Water Treatment Devices](#) available at:

http://www.saskh2o.ca/WaterInformationFactSheet_Drinking_Private_Health.asp

Procedures

Turn off the water supply to high-speed hand pieces. Using disinfected water, flush water out of a bulb syringe when using high-speed hand pieces.

Use a safe source of water for drinking, ice making and for patient care.

Bottled water can be used as a safe source. Alternatively, water can be made safe by treating it in the following fashion:

- For bacterial concerns,
 - disinfection (e.g. UV light);
 - boiling at a rolling boil for 1 minute; or
 - distillation.
- For cyst concerns,
 - boiling at a rolling boil for 1 minute;
 - distillation; or,
 - disinfection (e.g. UV light) and filtration
 - A reverse osmosis filter, or an “absolute one micron” filter or a filter certified to remove Cryptosporidium under NSF International Standard #53 for either “cyst removal” or “cyst reduction” is sufficient when combined with disinfection.

Ultraviolet light treatment of water is not effective on its own against Cryptosporidium cysts at normally used levels therefore should be preceded by filtration.

Water should not be delivered to patients through the dental unit, ultrasonic scaler, or other dental equipment that is directly connected to the public water system. This restriction does not apply if the water source is made potable through an acceptable water treatment system or if the device is isolated from the municipal water system (i.e. an approved alternate potable water supply).

Patients should rinse with bottled or distilled water until the advisory or order has been rescinded.

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.

Properly wash your hands with potable running water and then use an alcohol-based disinfectant with more than 60% alcohol. There are also other types of gels or solutions that can effectively disinfect the hands. However, the wet wipes used for cleaning babies during diapering are not effective for disinfecting hands and should not be used for this purpose.

When there are cyst concerns, individuals should properly wash their hands with soap and a safe running water supply (water from a safe source or boiled and then cooled tap water). An alcohol-based hand rub is not recommended for this event. The wet wipes used for cleaning babies at diaper change are not effective for disinfecting hands and should not be used for this purpose.

Upon rescinding PDWA or EBWO

Re-start and flush any water-using fixture or piece of equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. This may vary from fixture to fixture. Consult the manufacturer when re-starting the equipment. See the "Procedure for Flushing Water Systems AFTER an Emergency Boil Water Order or Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory" fact sheet for more information.

For More Information

The link below provides the contact information for public health officers throughout the province:
<http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/public-health-inspections>