



CDC Guidelines: From Policy to Practice

A Step-By-Step Implementation Workbook



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Safety & Asepsis Procedures

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From Policy to Practice: **OSAP's Guide to the Guidelines**

Your tool for applying CDC dental infection control guidelines



An education and training resource
prepared for dental workers by OSAP —
the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures

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Dentistry's Resource
for Infection Control & Safety

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What If...



... our community is under a boil-water advisory? Can we still do dentistry?

A boil-water advisory is a notice to the public to boil tap water before drinking it. Issued by the public health department when local or regional water is deemed unsafe to drink, these advisories are issued when:

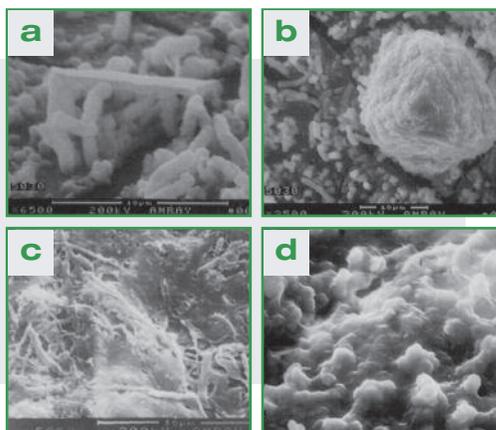
- a failure or significant interruption is detected in the municipal water treatment processes that make water safe to drink.
- pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, or *Shigella* are discovered in the public water supply;
- the water distribution system has been compromised to the point where a health hazard exists (for example, as in a water main break);
- drinking water standards are violated for any reason; or
- natural disasters compromise quality, delivery of, or access to safe drinking water.

In the event of a boil-water advisory:

- **Do not use water from the public water supply to treat patients.** This includes water plumbed through the dental unit, ultrasonic scaler, or other equipment that uses public water. If the water source has been isolated from the municipal water system (for example, in a separate water reservoir or other water treatment device that has been cleared for marketing by the Food and Drug Administration), this restriction does not apply.
- **Avoid using water from faucets for patient rinsing and handwashing.** Instead:
 - ❑ Have patients rinse with bottled water.
 - ❑ For hand hygiene, use alcohol-based hand rubs if hands are not visibly soiled. If they are, use bottled water and soap or an antiseptic-containing towelette to clean the hands.
- **Treat municipal water so it is safe for hand hygiene or for diluting disinfectant chemicals** (if dilution is recommended by the germicide manufacturer):
 - ❑ Bring water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute and cool thoroughly before use.

Inside dental waterlines...

(a) Microorganisms in the water attach to the tubing's inside surface, (b) form colonies, and (c) create a biofilm with (d) complex architecture to deliver nutrients from the water to the inhabitants inside.



Boil-Water Advisory Dos and Don'ts

During a Boil-Water Advisory

DO ...

- ... Have patients use bottled water or distilled water to rinse.
- ... Use antimicrobial products that do not require water, such as alcohol-based hand rubs, for hand hygiene. If hands are visibly soiled, use bottled water and soap for handwashing or an antiseptic-containing towelette.

DON'T ...

- ... Use water from the public water system for dental treatment, patient rinsing, or handwashing.
- ... Use tap water to dilute germicides or for hand hygiene (unless the water has been brought to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute and cooled before use).

After the boil-water advisory is lifted...

DO ...

- ... Follow the local water utility's guidance for flushing all waterlines served by the public water system.
- ... Disinfect dental operative waterlines according to the manufacturer's instructions.