

Mary Govoni & Associates

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE SPECIALISTS
IN DENTISTRY

What to do and not do during a Boil Water Advisory

A boil-water advisory is a public health announcement that the public should boil tap water before drinking it.

During a boil-water advisory:

- Do not deliver water from the public water system to the patient through any 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 the Food and Drug Administration).
- If your facility utilizes a water purification system, such as VistaPure®, the unit must be turned off and not used during the advisory.
- Have patients rinse with bottled or distilled water until the boil-water advisory has been cancelled.
- Do not use tap water to dilute disinfectants, ultrasonic solutions or for hand hygiene unless the water has been brought to a rolling boil for >1 minute and cooled before use. Or use bottled water for dilution and hand hygiene.
- For hand hygiene, use antimicrobial products that do not require water (e.g., alcohol-based hand rubs) until the boil-water notice is cancelled. If hands are visibly contaminated, use bottled water and soap for handwashing; if bottled water is not immediately available, use an antiseptic.

When the advisory is cancelled:

- Follow the local water utility's guidance on flushing all incoming waterlines from the public water system (e.g., faucets, waterlines, and dental equipment). If no guidance is provided, flush dental unit waterlines and faucets for 1 to 5 minutes before using for patient care.
- Tanks for water purification systems must be disinfected prior to use.

For questions about this Boil Water Advisory – call Mary Govoni at 517-214-8223.

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