

### **Extended Boil Water Alerts and Steps to Take after Alerts Are Lifted:**

- If the boil water alert is for an extended period of time and microbiological contamination is suspected, consider a more aggressive remediation. Consider consulting the State Health Department and Drinking Water Administrator about implementing short term supplemental treatment.
  - Once the boil water alert has been lifted flush all fixtures (e.g., faucets, drinking fountains) and equipment and restart. Flush faucets and fixtures until detectable chlorine can be detected.
    - o Flush for > 5 minutes and until residual disinfectant is detected.
    - o Discard ice from ice machines and clean and sanitize per manufacturers' instructions.
    - o If chlorine cannot be detected at point of use after flushing one may need to consider supplemental disinfection (Drinking water regulations will apply, by performing supplement disinfection the institution would now be considered a small public water system).
  - Remove point of use filters and flush outlets for several minutes before installing new filters (e.g., ice-machines, sinks and showers if present).
  - Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
  - Drain, disinfect, flush, and refill water storage tanks if needed.
  - Change pre-treatment filters, backwash carbon tanks, regenerate softener, and clean and disinfect RO membranes, disinfect dialysis distribution loops.
  - Corrective decontamination of the hot water system might be necessary after a prolonged disruption in service or a cross-connection with sewer lines has occurred.
    - o Decontaminate the system when the fewest occupants are present in the building to reduce possible exposure to waterborne pathogens (e.g., nights or weekends) (ASHRAE: 12:2000pdf iconexternal icon [PDF – 799 KB]; Sehulster et al. 2004pdf icon [PDF – 2.31 MB]).
- If using chlorination, add enough chlorine, preferably overnight, to achieve a free chlorine residual of >2 mg/L (ppm) throughout the system (ASHRAE: 12:2000pdf iconexternal icon [PDF – 799 KB]).
- ♣ Flush each outlet until chlorine odor is detected.
  - ♣ Maintain the elevated chlorine concentration in the system for >2 hours.

*This is excerpted from the Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities (2003)pdf icon [PDF – 2.31 MB]. Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), Emergency Water Supply Planning Guide for Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities (2012)pdf icon [PDF – 2.07 MB] and standards published by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)external icon, United States Pharmacopeia (USP), and manufacturers' instructions. The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare Services (CMS 2016external icon) [PDF – 1.27 MB] require all hospitals to have plans which address facility response for recovery from both internal and external disasters.*