

POST BOIL WATER ORDER INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

June 22, 2010

The Falmouth Water Department, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has lifted the boil water order for all of Falmouth Tuesday June 22, 2010.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health wants to remind healthcare facilities to review and implement all CDC Guidelines, as well as manufacturer instructions for specific pieces of clinical equipment immediately following a boil water order. A link to the CDC publication—Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities—is available at http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/eic_in_HCF_03.pdf

Each hospital should consult with their facility engineers and infection control representatives to develop a plan that is most appropriate to its situation. As a general rule, however, following a boil water order all healthcare facilities should implement the following steps:

- Corrective decontamination of the hot water *system* might be necessary after a disruption in service.
 - Decontaminate the system when the fewest occupants are present in the building (c.g. nights or weekends).
 - If using high temperature decontamination, raise the hot water temperature to 160°F— 170°F (71°C—77°C) and maintain that level while progressively flushing each outlet around the system for >5 minutes.
- Flush and restart equipment and fixtures according to manufacturers' instructions
- Change the pretreatment filter and disinfect the dialysis water system with an EPA registered product to prevent colonization of the reverse osmosis membrane and downstream microbial contamination.
- Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle to restore their capacity and function
- If the facility has a water-holding reservoir or water storage tank, consult the facility engineer or local health department to determine whether this equipment needs to be drained, disinfected with an EPA registered product, and refilled.
- Food Service operations within these facilities should refer to the Post Boil Order Instructions for Food Service Establishments.

The information for the post Boil-Order instructions are provided by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health.