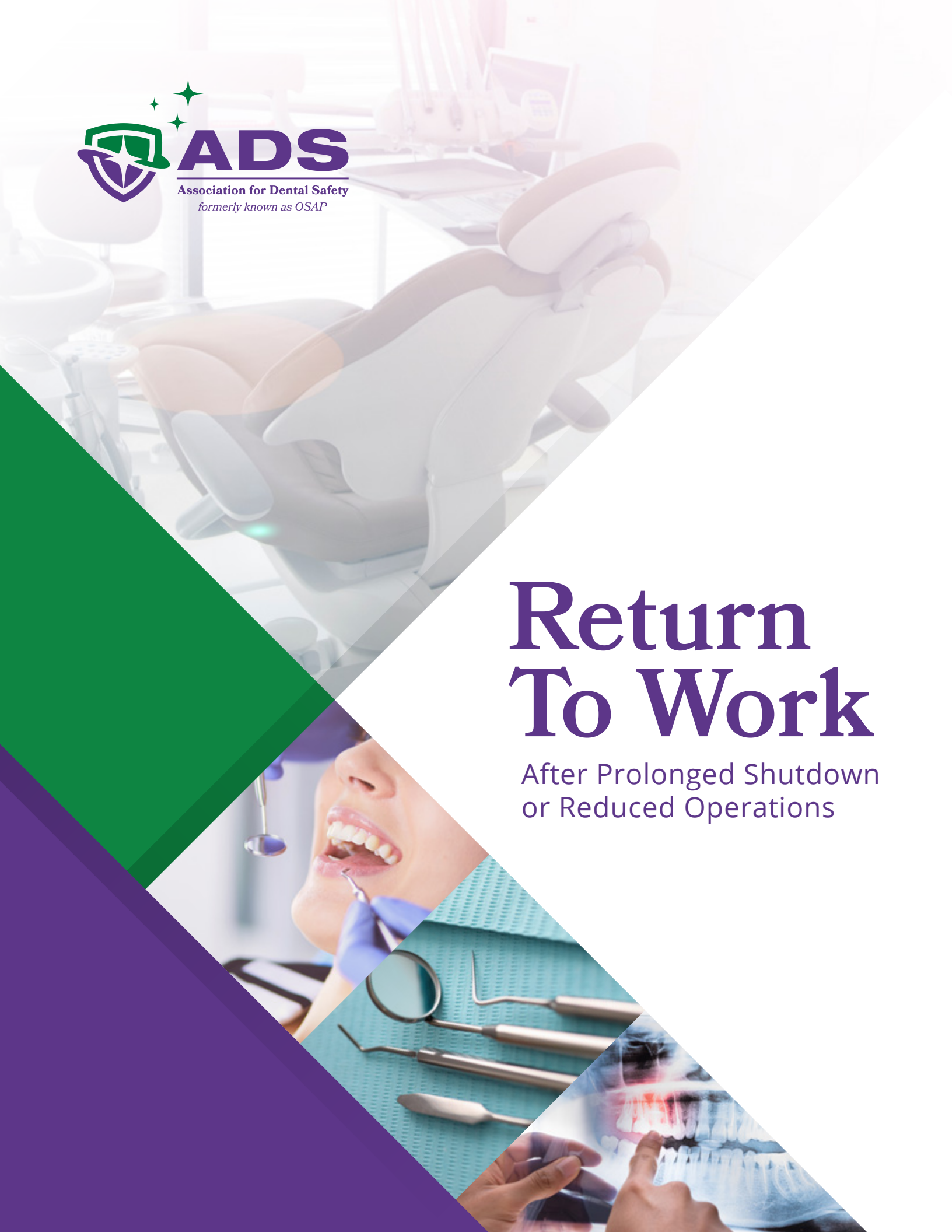




Return To Work

After Prolonged Shutdown
or Reduced Operations



Return to Work After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operations

This document is a compilation of infection prevention and control resources which will be useful when reopening dental practices after a natural disaster. Buildings should not be entered until deemed safe by proper authorities. To ensure the safety of workers and patients, if there is any evidence of water damage, proper remediation activities must be performed prior to reopening the practice/facility.

[Guidance: Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation](#) provides a detailed review of risks associated with reopening and provides mitigation strategies. This document covers multiple issues including contaminated water and HVAC systems impacted by moisture.

Excerpts from this Guidance: A temporary or reduced operation of a building and reductions in normal water use can create hazards. When reopening buildings after prolonged shutdown or reduced operations, ensure the safety of your building's water system and devices.

The following risks should be considered:

- **Legionella:** For Legionella, a “prolonged period” may be weeks or months depending on plumbing-specific factors, disinfectant residuals, water heater temperature set points, water usage patterns, and preexisting Legionella colonization.
- **Mold:** For mold, a “prolonged period” may be days, weeks, or months depending upon building-specific factors, season, and weather variables.
- **Lead and Copper:** For lead and copper, a “prolonged period” may be hours, days, weeks, or months depending on plumbing and water-specific factors, the amount of time the water remains stagnant inside the pipes, whether

there are protective scales or coatings present inside pipes that prevent metals from leaching into water, and the materials used to build the plumbing system.

Since water is an integral part of the delivery of oral healthcare, addressing safety of water and any water delivery units is a top priority. The following tools provide guidance on ensuring water quality when reopening a practice or facility.

- [Maintaining or Restoring Water Quality in Buildings with Low or No Use \(pdf\)](#) (229.13 KB, July 2020, Version 3)
- [Checklist: Restoring Water Quality in Buildings for Reopening \(pdf\)](#) (79.34 KB, May 2020)

Another important step in reopening a practice/facility is to ensure the proper functioning of all equipment. Manufacturer's instructions for use (IFU) will provide critical information on troubleshooting and restarting equipment. Ensure all IFUs are available at the beginning of the reopening process. If for some reason questions arise related to maintenance, operation or cleaning and disinfecting/sterilization of patient care items, please contact the manufacturer for clarification or further detail.



Action Items

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Determine availability and safety of water source.

- Contact local water utility about water quality and any restrictions. All systems/equipment using water will need to be flushed prior to use. The following document provides detailed instructions on this process.
 - [Restoring Water Quality Before Reopening Checklist](#)
 - If water is available, but Boil Water Advisory is in place see Checklist included in this document.
 - If potable water is not available, bottled water may be used if self-contained dental unit water bottles are in use.
-

Determine if sanitary sewer systems are in working order. This is necessary for disposal of suctioned materials during the delivery of care.

Have the building assessed for mold and excess moisture.

Ensure safety equipment such as eye wash stations and fire sprinklers are clean and in working order.

Clean and disinfect all environmental surfaces.

Inspect supplies and equipment for any indication of water damage and to ensure expiration dates have not been passed. Impacted items must be discarded based on appropriate government entity (EPA, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), local waste management), local waste management.

- Emergency kit
 - Medications
 - Materials used for patient treatment
 - Instrument reprocessing supplies (sterilization pouches/wraps, chemical indicators, spore tests)
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Surface disinfectants
 - Sterile supplies and instruments
 - Sterile supplies that have been subjected to heat or moisture outside of the safe storage parameters should be discarded.
 - Reprocessed instruments that have been subjected to heat or moisture outside of the safe storage parameters should be unpackaged, cleaned, repackaged, and sterilized.
-

Perform routine maintenance on equipment after extended periods of non-use. This includes air compressor, vacuum and suction lines, amalgam separator, radiology equipment and any other equipment used in the delivery of patient care.



DENTAL UNIT WATERLINES

If independent water bottle was contaminated, follow the IFU for decontamination. Note that some IFUs recommend cleaning both interior and/or exterior surfaces with specific germicidal agents, while some IFUs may not include specific cleaning recommendations.

Shock each DUWL based on manufacturer's instructions (unit and manufacturer of DUWL maintenance products). This includes lines connected to handpieces, ultrasonic scalers and air-water lines.

Complete post-shock testing to ensure all lines meet the standard for safe drinking water based on the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) standard of <500 CFU/mL.

- If DUWL test fails, repeat shock of DUWL, and retest
 - If DUWL test fails subsequent test, troubleshoot reason for failure
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Resume normal waterline maintenance, including shocking, testing and documentation.

INSTRUMENT REPROCESSING EQUIPMENT

Water purification systems

- Do not use any water contained in these systems until appropriate cleaning and maintenance has been performed, including water that may be in storage tanks. This includes water used for DUWLs, as well as for instrument reprocessing devices.
 - Close connections so that automatic filling of any devices will not occur.
 - Follow manufacturer's IFU for cleaning and possible replacement of filters.
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Instrument washer

- Ensure potentially contaminated water supply to the instrument washer has been flushed prior to placing washer back into use.
 - When possible, empty any residual chemicals left in the unit.
 - Follow IFU on cleaning and maintenance which may include replacing damaged filters.
 - Use an instrument washer cleaning test to validate proper functioning.
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Ultrasonic cleaner

- Empty residual fluids.
 - Follow manufacturer's IFU for proper cleaning and maintenance of the tank.
 - Fill the empty tank with potable water, detergent and perform a degassing cycle.
 - Perform cavitation testing prior to use by either the aluminum foil test or other cavitation testing methods.
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Automated handpiece cleaner/lubricator

- Follow manufacturer's IFU for routine maintenance processes prior to use.
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Steam Autoclaves

- Empty water chambers of residual water.
- Clean and examine filters and gaskets, replacing items if indicated.
- Fill with fresh water based on manufacturer's IFU.
- Prior to use for instrument reprocessing, perform spore testing in an empty chamber based on manufacturer's IFU.

Other sterilization methods

- Follow manufacturer's direction on start-up procedures.

HVAC Systems should be inspected, and filters replaced as needed.

Boil Water Advisory Plan for Dentistry

Boil water advisories may be issued for a number of reasons: Failure or interruption in water treatment processes, positive tests for pathogens in water, compromise in distribution system such as a water main break, or a natural disaster such as flooding, hurricane, or earthquake.

In the dental setting, the CDC recommends that all dental units should use systems that treat water to meet EPA drinking water standards (i.e., ≤ 500 CFU/mL of heterotrophic water bacteria) for general dental procedures. CDC guidelines for dental unit water quality include information on boil water advisories, which provides the basis for this plan.

DO's For Dental Facilities During Boil Water Notice:

- Contact local water utility about water quality and any restrictions.
- Place signs on all areas of the practice where municipal water enters facility such as sinks, restrooms, toothbrushing areas:
 - "Notice: Non-potable water: No drinking, no washing, no personal use"
 - "Notice: Boil water advisory in effect"
- Reschedule patients with immunocompromised health issues for routine (elective) dental procedures
- Prepare boiled water by bringing tap water to rolling boil for > 1 minute and cooling before use.
- Use bottled/boiled water or alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) for hand hygiene
 - If hands are visibly soiled, use bottled or boiled water for hand washing
- Monitor water quality per manufacturer's instructions for use (IFU) of:
 - Instrument washer
 - Ultrasonic cleaner
 - Dental unit water

- Follow manufacturer’s IFU of dental unit for recommended isolated water source (non-municipal water) for use in dental unit
 - Note: IFU’s of dental unit’s recommendations vary and may include distilled water, non-distilled water, softened water, filtered or sterile water, etc.
- Turn off water to reverse osmosis filtration system or other water purification systems.

DO NOT’s For Dental Facilities DURING Boil Water Notice:

- Use municipal water (municipal water) for
 - Hand hygiene
 - Oral hygiene and tooth brushing
 - Filling ultrasonic instrument cleaner
 - Filling self-contained dental unit water bottles
 - Dental treatment utilizing ultrasonic scalers, piezo scalers, sonic scalers or any dental equipment that uses municipal water
 - Preparing any solutions that require dilution (germicides, sodium hypochlorite, etc.)

Disaster Recovery Resources

[ADS, formerly OSAP, Emergency Preparedness and Recovery](#)

[ADS, formerly OSAP, Boil Water Advisory](#)

[ADA Emergency Planning and Disaster Recovery](#)

[CDC Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)

[Safety Guidelines: Flood Water – The risks that flood waters bring are outlined.](#)

[Reentering Your Flooded Home](#) – While listed as returning to a flooded home, this document provides important safety tips for entering a practice or facility for the first time after flooding.

[Cleaning Safely After Flooding](#) – Floodwater can contain dangerous bacteria from overflowing sewage and agricultural and industrial waste. This tool provides practice guidance for cleaning/ disinfecting safely.

[Mold Testing and Remediation](#)

[CDC Mold Resources and Publications](#)

[US EPA Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings Guide: Chapter 1](#) – This document outlines industry guidelines for the remediation/cleanup of mold and water intrusion within the building envelope. The checklists below should be used as a guide.

- [Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings–Table 1: Water Damage–Cleanup and Mold Prevention](#) (epa.gov)–Water Damage Clean-up and Mold Prevention
- [Checklist for Mold Remediation](#) (epa.gov) – Checklist for mold remediation

Dental Unit Waterline Resources

[Dental Unit Water Quality: Organization For Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention Whitepaper and Recommendations](#)

[Best Practices for Dental Unit Water Quality](#)

[ADS, formerly OSAP, Dental Unit Water Quality Topics](#)

NOTE: This document is intended to provide infection prevention and control information and practical guidance for dental healthcare settings during recovery from certain natural disasters. This information is not a substitute for professional advice based upon a practice’s or individual practitioner’s unique facts and circumstances. While we have made every effort to ensure this information has been obtained from trustworthy sources, ADS has no responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any results obtained from using this information. This information doesn’t not constitute legal or other professional advice. With respect to any links or references included to any third-party website(s) or publications, ADS is not endorsing their content, and does not make any representations or warranties about the information provided on those sites. In no event would ADS be liable to you or any third party for any decision made or action taken based on the information in this compilation.

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