



## Center for Drinking Water Quality

### Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures for After a Boil Water Advisory Has Been Lifted for Healthcare Facilities, Schools, and Businesses

**When the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) lifts a boil water advisory, healthcare facilities, schools, and non-food-related businesses should follow these recommendations to help ensure drinking water is safe.**

#### **Refrigerators with water dispensers or ice makers**

Water dispensers and ice machines must be cleaned and sanitized with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach to one gallon of water before use. Follow the manufacturer's suggested sanitizing procedures in the operator's manual. At minimum, a facility, school, or business should:

- Run the water dispenser for three to five minutes to get any contaminated water out of the lines.
- Run the ice maker for at least 30 minutes.
- Throw away the first batch of ice that the refrigerator makes.
- Wash and sanitize the area around and in the ice collection bin.

All external filtering devices associated with ice machines should be sanitized. Filter cartridges should also be changed.

#### **Water treatment units**

Replace any water treatment filter cartridges.

#### **Faucets/Taps**

Any faucets or taps should be run for 10 minutes to ensure that any contamination that may be present is removed.

**Reminder:** Employees should use cold water for cooking and drinking instead of water that has been sitting in a hot water tank.

#### **Eye-Wash stations>Showers**

Any emergency eye-wash stations that have not been used while the boil water advisory was in place should be run for 10 minutes to ensure that any contamination that may be present is removed.

**Call 401-222-6867, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. if you have any questions. After hours and on weekends, call 401-276-8046.**

