

Reopening Your Personal Services Facility after Flooding

Inspection

It is the responsibility of the manager or operator to conduct a complete self-inspection to ensure that normal operations can be resumed safely and without compromising client safety.

Essential Services: Water, Power and Gas

- Ensure the electricity and gas services have been restored safely and inspected by a qualified professional.
- Do not attempt to use any large electrical equipment, such as tanning beds and autoclaves, until the equipment has been deemed safe to use by a qualified professional. You may need to contact the manufacturer for further instructions.
- Water must be deemed potable before being used for handwashing and instrument cleaning.
- If you have a well that has flooded, ensure it is super-chlorinated (shocked) and tested after flood waters recede to confirm it is safe. Further information on well treatment is available at www.albertahealthservices.ca/8294.asp.

Physical Facilities

Before starting any remediation or construction work on walls, be sure you know which walls are load-bearing. Consult a contractor for guidance, as needed, on structural safety.

- Mould contamination is a concern. Contact a remediation company if you have extensive mould damage or asbestos concerns.
- Remove and discard all absorbent materials (carpet, drywall, upholstered chairs and benches, pillows, padding, cushions etc.) that have been water damaged.
- Thoroughly wash all remaining facility interior surfaces (e.g., floors and walls) using a hot water and detergent solution. After washing, rinse the surfaces free of detergent residues and then disinfect using a mild bleach solution (one tablespoon bleach to four litres of water).
- Structural components of the building (e.g., piping, ceiling, and HVAC system/ventilation systems) affected by flood waters should be removed, repaired, or cleaned and disinfected, as needed. More information on mould remediation is available at www.albertahealthservices.ca/8294.asp.

Equipment & Instruments

All equipment and instruments in the facility must be inspected and assessed by the operator. All flood affected equipment and instruments must either be discarded or cleaned and disinfected/sterilized. Many materials cannot be reasonably cleaned once they have been soaked with floodwater.

- Remove and discard the following items, in sealed plastic bags, whenever possible.
 - Single-use items
 - Items that absorb moisture
 - All containers, lotions, cosmetics and materials that may have been submerged in flood waters or affected by moisture
 - Materials, supplies and equipment in plastic, paper, cardboard, cloth, and similar containers that have been water damaged or have absorbed moisture
- Remember to thoroughly clean and disinfect all sinks before using them.
- Launder all cloth, including sheets and towels, in hot water with detergent and dry in a hot dryer.
- Don't forget to ensure that electrical equipment is thoroughly dried before testing it. You may need to contact the manufacturer for further instructions.
- Items that are to be cleaned and disinfected/sterilized must be disassembled at the cleaning step.

Damaged Food Supplies

If you provide food or beverages to your clients, please discard the following items:

- All food and packaging materials that may have been submerged in flood waters or affected by moisture.
- All refrigerated perishable foods that have spent an unknown amount of time in refrigerators without power. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Food or beverages with screw-caps, snap-lids, crimped-caps (soda pop bottles), twist-caps, flip-tops, snap-opens, and similar type closures that have been submerged in flood waters.
- Food packed in plastic, paper, cardboard, cloth, and similar containers that have been water damaged or have absorbed moisture.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

*Edmonton Main Office
Calgary Main Office
Lethbridge Main Office*

*780-735-1800
403-943-2295
403-388-6689*

*Grande Prairie Main Office
Red Deer Main Office
www.albertahealthservices.ca/eph.asp*

*780-513-7517
403-356-6366*

*2EPHB-14-002
Created: Jun/13
Revised: Jun/14*