

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT NEW RULE OF THE  
GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
RULE 150-8-.05 DENTAL UNIT WATER QUALITY**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Dentistry (hereinafter "Board") proposes the adoption of a new rule of the Georgia Board of Dentistry, Rule 150-8-.05 DENTAL UNIT WATER QUALITY (hereinafter "proposed adoptions").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the rule including the proposed adoptions and a synopsis of the rule including the proposed adoptions, is being forwarded to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on an interested parties list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the rule including the proposed adoptions, and a synopsis of the rule including the proposed adoptions may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Department of Community Health at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia Board of Dentistry's web page at <http://gbd.georgia.gov/>.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM on January 10, 2025 at the Department of Community Health at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed adoptions. During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerably technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. To ensure their consideration, written comments must be received prior to January 9, 2025. Written comments should be addressed to Executive Director of the Georgia Board of Dentistry at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. You may email your comments to [james.joiner@dch.ga.gov](mailto:james.joiner@dch.ga.gov).

The proposed adoptions will be considered by the Georgia Board of Dentistry during its meeting scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM on January 10, 2025 at the Department of Community Health at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Dentistry has the authority to adopt the proposed adoptions pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A §§ 43-1-19, 43-11-7, 43-11-47, and 43-11-72.

At its meeting on November 1, 2024, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these amendments do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed adoptions cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A §§ 43-11-7 and 43-11-9.

At its meeting on November 1, 2024, the Board also voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§43-11-7 and 43-11-9 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these amendments will impact every licensee in the same manner, and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of dentistry.

For further information, contact the Board office at 404-651-8000.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-13-4.

This 9 day of December, 2024.



J. Clinton Joiner, II  
Executive Director  
Georgia Board of Dentistry

Posted: December 9, 2024

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED ADOPTIONS OF THE  
GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
RULE 150-8-.05 DENTAL UNIT WATER QUALITY.**

**Purpose:** To require and set standards for the testing of dental unit water lines in the practice of dentistry in Georgia, and to require remedial action in the event dental unit water lines fail testing.

**Main Features:** This rule requires routine testing of dental unit water lines, establishes standards and procedures for said testing, provides criteria for a failed test and remedial action, and requires maintenance of a record of such testing.

**DIFFERENCES OF PROPOSED ADOPTIONS OF THE  
GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
RULE 150-8-.05 DENTAL UNIT WATER QUALITY.**

NOTE: Struck through text is proposed to be deleted. Underlined text is proposed to be added.

A copy of the draft rule approved by the Board is attached hereto.

**Rule 150-8-.05. Dental Unit Water Quality**

- (1) A licensed dentist shall use water for nonsurgical procedures that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency regulatory standards for drinking water of five hundred or less colony-forming units or CFUs/mL.
- (2) A licensed dentist shall be responsible that staff are following dental equipment manufacturer's instructions for use when testing the water delivery system for acceptable water quality. If manufacturer's instructions for use are unavailable, a licensed dentist shall be responsible to ensure that the water delivery system is at acceptable water quality quarterly. A licensed dentist shall be responsible for testing the water delivery system within 30 days of repair or changes to plumbing.
  - (a) Effective January 1, 2025, all dental unit water lines must be tested quarterly.
    1. All water lines for each operatory or dental unit can be pooled as one single sample.
      - (i) A pooled sample must use an equal amount of water from each water line.
      - (ii) A pooled sample can have up to ten water lines included.
      - (iii) The number of water lines pooled into one sample must be documented.
    2. All water lines for each operatory or dental unit can be tested individually.
  - (b) In the event of an unacceptable level of colony-forming units or CFUs, a licensed dentist shall take immediate remedial action. For the purposes of this section, remedial action means any action necessary to reduce the CFUs to five hundred or a lesser number currently recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as acceptable for drinking water.
  - (c) A licensed dentist shall be responsible for recording the water delivery system testing and maintenance in the form of a log reflecting dates and person or persons conducting the test and reports from an independent testing entity. A licensed dentist shall maintain this documentation for a period of five years.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-11-7, 43-11-47, and 43-11-72.