

# DENTAL WATERLINE MANAGEMENT IS CRUCIAL IN INFECTION CONTROL.

## WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients



- Waterlines are used for providing water to dental handpieces during routine oral health treatments.
- Waterlines have unique characteristics that make them prone to germ growth.
- If waterlines are not maintained properly, the water flowing through them can be contaminated, leading to harmful germs entering a patient's body.

## Germs That Live in Waterlines

- *Legionella pneumophila*
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- *Mycobacterium abscessus*



*Legionella pneumophila*

## Healthcare Tasks Involving Waterlines

- Oral surgery procedures
- Flushing the mouth during dental procedures

## Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Purge waterlines nightly and when units are out of service.
- Regularly test, treat, and shock waterlines with disinfectants to meet EPA standards for drinking water.
- Use sterile saline or water as a coolant/irrigant when performing surgical procedures.