



Infection Control Issue and Changes

Infection control can be particularly challenging in a large free dental/medical clinic setting.

Challenges

- Non-traditional setting
- Unfamiliar equipment and instruments
- Long hours
- Hectic pace
- Volunteers with varying degrees of experience and skill

Common problems seen at other NM MOM events

- Clinicians not wearing appropriate PPEs
- Clinicians not wiping down area after each patient
- Clinicians touching non-barriered surfaces with contaminated gloves
- Clinicians and assistants getting up from the chair with contaminated gloves to get additional supplies
- Assistants going to get supplies or instruments without disinfecting their hands
- Transporting sharps back to central sterilization, this is prohibited by ADCF
- In sterilization, volunteers touching autoclave controls with contaminated gloves
- In sterilization, volunteers taking sterile instruments out of autoclaves with gloves on

While this is certainly not a comprehensive list of all the possible situations, these were identified as the most common in the past NM MOM events. Please be vigilant to possible breaches of asepsis that cannot be predicted.

Response

- We have added a large number of students to help assist clinicians with the challenges of keeping an asepsis environment. These students will be the extra hands for Clinicians to move or adjust equipment or gather supplies.
- We have added a request to everyone that PPE be used as needed or appropriate.
- We have added additional requirements to sterilization per the requirements and recommendations of the ADCF.