



INFECTION CONTROL LEAD TRAINING

The goal of the Infection Control Lead is to assist the dental team in maintaining the highest standard of infection control. The objective of the Infection Control Lead is to identify where possible breaches of asepsis may occur and prevent them. **It is NOT the role of the Lead to turn over the chairs.**

Infection control can be particularly challenging in a large free dental clinic setting. We have added a significant number of students to help assist clinicians with the challenges of keeping an asepsis environment. These students will be the extra hands for dentists, hygienists, and assistants to move or adjust equipment or gather supplies. The students are under your direction.

Challenges

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

Common problems and interventions

- Clinicians touching non-barriered surfaces with contaminated gloves
 - Have students immediately wipe down the surface and offer to cover it with a barrier or have students adjust lights or touch surfaces for clinicians.
 - Remind the clinician that you can help them with adjusting whatever surface it is that they touch.
- Clinicians and assistants getting up from the chair with contaminated gloves to get additional supplies
 - Have students offer to get the item for them.
 - Say, "I see you already have gloves on, what can I get for you?"
- Assistants going to get supplies or instruments without disinfecting their hands
 - Remind them that they should use the alcohol-based hand rub every time they remove their gloves and leave the chair area. If possible, have the students get needed items.
- **No sharps will be taken to Sterilization. This is prohibited by National MOM (ADCF)**
 - Remind them to dispose of sharps in the sharps container nearest their work station.
- Clinicians not wearing appropriate Personal Protection Equipment
 - Have students offer to get a mask, safety glasses, or a gown/jacket for the clinician.
- In sterilization, volunteers touching autoclave controls with contaminated gloves
 - Designate one or two people only to load autoclaves, and train them to remove gloves prior to touching controls.
- In sterilization, volunteers taking sterile instruments out of autoclaves with gloves on
 - Designate one or two people to only remove sterile items with clean hands

While this is certainly not a comprehensive list of all of 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.

If you identify a problem, try to identify ways to correct it. If you cannot see a reasonable solution, take the problem to the Lead or the Dental Chair. If you see a pattern of a volunteer repeatedly disregarding basic infection control principles, please report that person and the behaviors you have witnessed to the Lead.

Infection Control- Dental Protocol

Follow infection control best practices including, but not limited to, donning and doffing of appropriate personal protective equipment (mask, gloves, eye protection, gowns), sterilizing instruments (including handpieces) between patients, and wiping down equipment and surfaces between patients.

Place only biohazard waste (e.g., blood-soaked gauze, teeth) in the red bags. No general trash in red bags please!

Dispose of sharps in the sharps container closest to your station. Do not travel the clinic floor with sharps on a tray or in a boat.

Infection Control volunteers will be stationed throughout the clinic to assist in all tasks to help ensure compliance with best practices during treatment.

Place extra amalgam and amalgam capsules in the amalgam waste containers nearest your station or in the sterilization area.

In addition, the following procedures must be followed:

Do not allow patient to form a lip seal on the suction (saliva ejector or HVAC).

Before turning off HVAC, remove it from the patient's mouth, point it to the ceiling, then turn it off.

After each patient, obtain pre-mixed line cleaner solution and pull one cup through the saliva ejector and one cup through the HVAC.

Please keep in mind, that we are all volunteers trying to serve our communities. These patients deserve the same quality of care that we provide in our practices every day.

PLEASE BE FLEXIBLE and THANK YOU for participating today.