

# Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Office

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for patients and/or dental health care professionals

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• single use items discarded immediately after use</li> <li>• reusable items cleaned and disinfected after use, per manufacturer's instructions</li> </ul>
<b>Gloves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>must be</b> worn when coming into contact with blood, bodily fluids or mucous membranes</li> <li>• discarded immediately after use (not washed and reused)</li> <li>• must not be used for more than one patient</li> <li>• heavy-duty gloves worn when processing contaminated instruments</li> </ul>
<b>Masks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changed after each patient or when moist or visibly soiled</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical clothing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changed and laundered as needed</li> <li>• clothing worn during patient procedures (e.g. scrubs, lab coats) should not be worn outside the dental office</li> </ul>
<b>Protective eyewear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaned and disinfected as required</li> </ul>

## Hand hygiene

<b>Hand washing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• always wash hands before donning and after removing gloves</li> <li>• use plain or antimicrobial liquid soap and running water OR 70-90% alcohol-based hand rub</li> <li>• liquid soap should be provided in disposable pump dispensers</li> <li>• dry hands using disposable paper towels</li> <li>• avoid hand jewellery and artificial nails</li> </ul>
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## Treatment areas

<b>Dental unit waterlines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• purged at the beginning of each workday</li> <li>• activate handpieces for at least 20-30 seconds after patient care to purge</li> <li>• dental handpieces and intraoral devices attached to air or waterlines <b>must be sterilized</b> after each patient use</li> </ul>
<b>Dental radiography equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protected by barriers, or cleaned and disinfected/sterilized after each patient use</li> <li>• film holders/positioning devices <b>must be sterilized</b> after each patient use</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical surfaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaned and disinfected between patients and at the end of the day using low-level disinfectant</li> <li>• barriers may be used for surfaces that are difficult to clean and disinfect</li> </ul>

## Equipment

<b>Single use items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• do not reprocess and use on another patient; discard after use</li> </ul>
<b>Dental lab equipment (e.g. lab burs, polishing points, rag wheels)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilized per manufacturer's instructions</li> </ul>
<b>Sterilizer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• daily operation is reviewed and documented</li> <li>• <b>biological indicators (spore tests) must be conducted at least once a week for each sterilizer</b></li> </ul>

## Sharps

- kept out of the reach of patients
- collected in a clearly labelled, puncture-resistant container
- container placed immediately adjacent to the point of use
- container(s) disposed of per B.C. legislation

## Instrument processing

<b>Processing area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear separation of clean and dirty areas, with separate sections for:             <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• receiving, cleaning and decontamination                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>– if cleaning is not performed immediately, place instruments in puncture-resistant holding container with a detergent or enzymatic cleaner</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparation and packaging                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– after instruments are cleaned and dried, inspect and assemble into sets or trays and package for sterilization in suitable packing</li> <li>– hinged instruments are processed open and unlocked</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sterilization                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– mechanical indicators are checked and recorded for each load <i>to the extent possible</i></li> <li>– external chemical indicators used on each package</li> <li>– drying and cooling per sterilizer manufacturer's instructions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• receiving, cleaning and decontamination                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>– if cleaning is not performed immediately, place instruments in puncture-resistant holding container with a detergent or enzymatic cleaner</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparation and packaging                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– after instruments are cleaned and dried, inspect and assemble into sets or trays and package for sterilization in suitable packing</li> <li>– hinged instruments are processed open and unlocked</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sterilization                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– mechanical indicators are checked and recorded for each load <i>to the extent possible</i></li> <li>– external chemical indicators used on each package</li> <li>– drying and cooling per sterilizer manufacturer's instructions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<b>Flash sterilization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is not to be routinely used in the dental office</li> <li>• unpackaged critical patient care items are to be used immediately for unplanned or urgent use, and not stored</li> <li>• unpackaged semi-critical patient care items must be used immediately or within a short time</li> </ul>			
<b>Heat-sensitive semi-critical items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaned, followed by immersion in a high-level liquid chemical germicide</li> <li>• confirm effectiveness of liquid germicide by using appropriate test strips</li> </ul>			
<b>Ready-to-use multi-pack items that are tried in but not used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• should be cleaned, sterilized, and may be returned to their appropriate package (includes temporary crown forms, stainless steel crowns, pediatric space maintainers, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<b>Storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• done in a manner that maintains the sterility and integrity of sterilization packaging</li> <li>• if packaging is compromised, clean, package and re-sterilize instruments</li> </ul>			

## Waste management

<b>General office waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• garbage containers are waterproof with a plastic liner and tight-fitting lids</li> <li>• containers are not overfilled, and do not contain objects that can cause the plastic liner to burst</li> </ul>
<b>Biomedical waste (both anatomical waste and non-anatomical waste)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stored in colour-coded containers marked with the universal bio-hazard symbol</li> <li>• not disposed of with regular garbage</li> </ul>
<b>Extracted teeth (if not given to patient)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• should be disposed of appropriately</li> </ul>
<b>Other considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disposal of all waste from the dental office must comply with applicable bylaws</li> </ul>

## Housekeeping surfaces

(e.g. cabinetry, floors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaned periodically or as needed if contaminated with blood, saliva, or other bodily fluids</li> </ul>
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