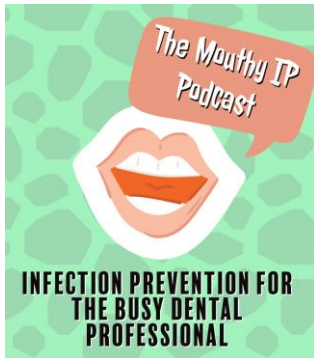




Infection Control Assessment  
and Promotion Program

Contact Nebraska ICAP at  
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402.552.2881



## THE MOUTHY IP PODCAST

### EPISODE 2:

## MYTHBUSTING- DISEASE OUTBREAKS DON'T HAPPEN IN DENTISTRY

**\*ALL INFORMATION  
IS ACCURATE AS OF  
THE DATE THIS  
EPISODE WAS  
RECORDED**

### **Summary:**

The ICAP team wanted to bust the myth that disease outbreaks never happen in dentistry because there aren't many reported cases.

### **Key Takeaways:**

- Even though outbreaks are not commonly reported, there is still a large risk of transmission in the dental setting.
- Hepatitis B vaccinations are a great way to reduce risk.
- Engineer infection control to be easy for staff: easy access to PPE/ supplies, assigning duties so they don't get forgotten
- Work as a team to protect each other and your patients
- Very large risk for percutaneous exposure based on the types of procedures that are done in dentistry
- Dental Unit Waterlines and Air/ Water Syringe tips have the potential to have biofilm that can be a cause of outbreaks
- Handpieces and suctions are prone to backflow and should be cleaned/ sterilized/ used properly and according to manufacturer's instructions for use
- Use available tools to make sure your practice is following all recommended practices for safe care.

### **Resource List:**

1. CDC Guidance for Evaluating Health-Care Personnel for Hepatitis B Virus Protection and for Administering Postexposure Management:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6210a1.htm>
2. Dental Unit Waterline FAQ:  
[https://www.osap.org/general/custom.asp?page=Test\\_FAQInstrumDUW#Distilled](https://www.osap.org/general/custom.asp?page=Test_FAQInstrumDUW#Distilled)
3. Efficacy of air/water syringe tip sterilization:  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24494727/>
4. CDC Statement on reprocessing dental handpieces:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-on-reprocessing-dental-handpieces.htm>
5. Basic Expectations of Safe Care:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/summary-infection-prevention-practices/index.html>
6. CDC Dental Check App:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/dentalcheck.html>