

Dental IPC Bites

June 2022

Sterilized and Spotless

Sterilization and disinfection is one of the most critical processes in a dental practice. Use this monthly tip to help improve your practice and keep your patients safe!

Some instruments are heat sensitive and can't be heat sterilized. There are other methods of sterilization and disinfection that can be found on page 23 in the [CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Healthcare Settings](#).

The Mouthy IP

The Mouthy IP is a podcast that is focused on dental infection best practice where we answer questions submitted by our listeners. Find out more on Twitter at @Mouthy_IP or on our website at: <https://bit.ly/ICAPDental> Submit your questions to sstream@nebraskamed.com



Upcoming Events

[OSAP 2022 Annual Conference](#) | 6/17-19/22

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 6/22/22

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 7/13/22

Reducing Aerosols During Procedures

Many different procedures in the dental clinic produce aerosols and droplets through the use of handpieces, ultrasonics and the air water syringe. With COVID-19 and other diseases being transmitted via droplets and aerosols, its important to understand what we can do as dental professionals to reduce aerosols during treatment. [This study](#) on aerosol management, published in the British Dental Journal in November of 2020 found the following:

1. Overall, the use of a high volume evacuation (HVE) system, significantly reduces the amount of aerosols that are dispersed in the treatment area.
2. The use of a rubber dam during dental procedures will also significantly reduce the risk of transmission.
3. A pre-procedure mouth rinse can help reduce the load of microorganisms in the patient's mouth, adding another layer of risk reduction.
4. The use of negative pressure in treatment areas is an effective way to control airflow and reduce risk of transmission.
5. No single mitigation strategy or device will minimize the risk of transmission completely. Layer many approaches (HVE, Rubber Dam, PPE) to minimize risk to an acceptable level.

Nebraska ICAP Supports Dental Clinics with Infection Control

Nebraska ICAP offers dental clinics many infection prevention and control (IPC) support services to build their IPC programs.

- Staff education: Education is an important aspect of any IPC program. Nebraska ICAP offers education by experienced infection preventionists to keep your staff up to date on the latest IPC guidelines and recommendations. To find out more or to schedule a training for your clinic, visit the [Ne ICAP Project Firstline Website](#) and check out the "Current Training Opportunities" drop down.
- Infection Control Review: The best way to assess your IPC program is to have an objective third party come in and evaluate it. Nebraska ICAP offers these proactive reviews at no cost to the clinic and provides comprehensive guidance on anything and everything infection control related in your clinic. To find out more or to schedule this review for your clinic, call us at 402.552.2881.