

Dental IPC Bites

May 2023

Sterilized and Spotless: Monitoring

The sterilization process is complex and requires regular monitoring. There are multiple ways to monitor the sterilization cycles your sterilizer completes.

Another regular monitoring process that must be done is with a Type 5 Integrator. These test strips measure multiple parameters and ensure your cycle has met all the requirements for sterility.

Measuring time, temperature and pressure verification should be done for each sterilizer load. The integrator should be placed in a package, just like an instrument would so it can be processed in those conditions.

You can find more at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/monitoring.html>

The Mouthy IP

The Mouthy IP is a podcast that is focused on dental infection prevention and. Find out more on Twitter at @Mouthy_IP or on our website at:

<https://bit.ly/ICAPDental>

Submit your questions to stream@nebraskamed.com



Upcoming Events

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 05/24/23

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 06/13/23

The End of the Public Health Emergency in the Dental Setting

May 11, 2023, marks the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) that was issues for the COVID-19 pandemic. What does this mean for dentistry? Here is what you need to know:

- Continue following Standard Precautions during patient care.
- Patient Screening: There is no longer a need to screen patients for COVID-19 symptoms, but Ne ICAP recommends screening for symptoms that may indicate a respiratory illness. If a person has symptoms of any respiratory illness their treatment should be postponed if possible.
- Source Control or Universal Masking: [CDC Core IPC Practices](#) still recommends source control as an intervention during high respiratory virus transmission according to local respiratory illness reporting metrics.
- During Aerosol Generating Procedures for patients not suspected of SARS-CoV-2 infection should wear appropriate PPE with consideration of a NIOSH approved N95 respirator and use mitigation strategies to reduce aerosols (HVE, rubber dams, etc.).
- Continue to provide treatment in individual rooms with reliable HVAC ventilation. If individual rooms are not available, space chairs at least 6 feet away with a physical barrier between chairs and HEPA filtration systems.
- Ensure enough time between patients to effectively clean and disinfect clinical surfaces and process instruments.

You can find these recommendations and more information from the CDC at the [IPC Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel for COVID-19](#) page.

Nebraska ICAP Supports Dental Clinics with Infection Control

Nebraska ICAP is a free program that offers dental clinics many infection prevention and control (IPC) support services to build their IPC programs. Reach out to us to schedule support for your infection control needs.

- Proactive, non-regulatory infection control reviews for any office
- Staff education and infection control career advancement programs
- Infection control support via phone or email
- Infection control educational presentations and courses



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