

Dental IPC Bites

September 2023

Upcoming Events

[OSAP: Maintaining a Disinfected Patient Care Area](#) | 10/04/23

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 10/11/23

[OSAP: Achieving Compliance with IC Record Keeping](#) | 10/19/23

Sterilized and Spotless: Instrument Inspection

Inspection of instruments during and after the sterilization process is a critical step that often gets overlooked.

ANSI/AAMI ST79 Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization states, "After the cleaning process, personnel should visually inspect each item carefully to detect any visible soil." If any bioburden remains on the instrument, it must be re-cleaned. A magnifying glass and light may be needed to inspect small instrument surfaces.

Bioburden left on instruments prevents steam from reaching the surface of the instrument and prevents effective sterilization.

Instruments should also be inspected before patient use for bioburden. If any is found, the instruments should be re-cleaned and sterilized.

The Mouthy IP Podcast

You can find more information at: <https://bit.ly/ICAPDental>
Submit your questions to stream@nebraskamed.com



Respiratory Illness Season is Here!

Respiratory illness season is upon us. Influenza, RSV and COVID-19 illness tend to increase in prevalence during the fall months and continue to affect the population until the spring months. There are things your facility can do to prevent the spread of illness in your patients, and coworkers.

Dr. Mike Bell with the CDC wrote a blog on infection control reminders for the 23-24 season. You can find this blog at: <https://bit.ly/3sYoe4Z>

The CDC recommends:

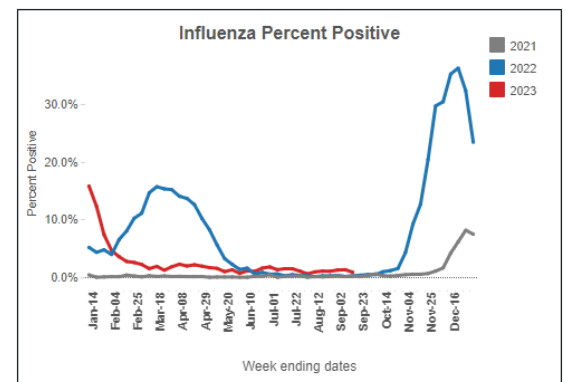
- Checking your ventilation
- Consider source control masking for everyone in your facility
- Use local data for decisions on source control masking
- Encourage vaccination in both patients and staff
- Review staff and patient symptoms upon entry
- Promote hand hygiene

September's Featured Infection Control Resource

One of the CDC recommendations for respiratory illness season is to use local data to influence source control masking decisions in your facility. This month's featured resource is the Nebraska Respiratory Illness Dashboard that allows users to see the rates of Influenza, RSV and COVID-19 over time.

You can find this dashboard at:

<https://bit.ly/3LoZp8H>



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.

- Initiative-taking, 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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