



The Mouthy IP Podcast Show Notes **Episode 25: Protective Eyewear for Staff**

Episode Summary:

Dental providers should be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) any time there is a potential for exposure to blood, body fluid, chemicals or debris. Protective eyewear is a critical piece of PPE that helps protect the eyes from splashes, splatters and flying debris that can cause injury.

In an article about eyewear use and injury (referenced below), they found 48% of dental providers self-reported an eye injury or infection while working in the dental setting. An astounding 75% of those reporting injuries and infections self-reported they were not wearing protective eyewear when the injury or exposure occurred.

Some tips discussed during the show include:

- The employers responsibility when providing eyewear to staff.
- How to wear protective eyewear appropriately without removing them between patients.
- How to find eyewear that is comfortable and works for you.
- Different duties that would require protective eyewear to be worn.

The Nebraska ICAP team would love to hear from you about your eyewear experience! What have you found that works for you? What barriers have you encountered when looking for or wearing eyewear? Feel free to email us at sstream@nebraskamed.com with your stories!

Resource List:

- CDC: Oral Health – Personal Protective Equipment FAQs:
<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/personal-protective-equipment.html>
- Eye safety in operative dentistry - a study in general dental practice:
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16501535/>
- Eye-related trauma and infection in dentistry:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5624147/>