

Infection Prevention & Control Standards for Dental Clinics

Project Firstline developed by the National Indian Health Board
& Centers for Disease Control

Jessica A. Rickert, DDS

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IPC-Infection Prevention and Control Standards Can Be Achieved By:

- Training/Technical Assistance Program for Tribal health officials
- Adapting Existing Materials to communicate to Tribal health officials
- Mentorship Program between infection control professionals and Tribal health officials
- IPC Sources and Certification Support for Tribal health officials
- Designing/Disseminating Infection Control demonstration videos and job aids
- Developing a Tribal IPC Institute where AIAN can learn standard IPC
- Developing Performance Monitoring/Evaluation for continuous improvement

IPC Dental Standards – Areas of Concern

- **Varied dental clinics** serving American Indians and Alaskan Natives:

- Indian Health Service Dental Clinics
- Tribally Owned Dental Clinics
- AIAN Dental Clinics in an Urban Center
- Contract with a Local Dental Clinic

- **Various sources for IPC guidelines may be inconsistent**

- Centers for Disease Control
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration, federal & state
- American Dental Association
- Dental Schools

Websites

1. **Centers for Disease Control's** [Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response, Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Webinar pages](#)
[CDC Presentation](#)
[Guidance for Dental Settings | CDC](#)
[Symptoms of Coronavirus | CDC](#)
[Considerations for School Sealant Programs During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic \(cdc.gov\)](#)
[CDC COVID-19 Screening Tool Paper Form](#)
[Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to COVID-19 | CDC](#)
[Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to COVID-19 | CDC](#)
[Interim Guidance on Testing Healthcare Personnel for SARS-CoV-2 | CDC](#)
[high-risk exposures](#) [vulnerable populations](#) [Viral tests](#) [authorized nucleic acid or antigen detection assays](#)
[CDC Guidance for Expanded Screening Testing to Reduce Silent Spread of SARS-CoV-2](#)
[List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Pesticide Registration | US EPA](#)
[Air | Appendix | Environmental Guidelines | Guidelines Library | Infection Control | cdc](#)

Websites

2. **American Dental Association's** Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit Includes online course [Return to Work Toolkit Thank You | American Dental Association \(ada.org\)](#)

[ADA Return to Work Toolkit.pdf](#) [ADA Return to Work Toolkit](#)

[ADA Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\) Toolkit](#)

Contact is -->msc@ada.org Available in Spanish

3. Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention guided by **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** (OSHA)

[OSAP-Best-Practices-17Jun20.pdf \(henryschein.com\)](#)

Dental Population Groups at Risk

- **Patient Population** (and their families)
- **Office Staff** (and their families)
- **Other Persons** in area of Dental Clinic: delivery people, repair & installation people, people sharing common public spaces in professional buildings

Dental Staffing Changes to Prevent COVID-19

- **More assistants** needed for intake, sanitization, record keeping and monitoring
- **High Volume Suction** required for all procedures; previously, many procedures were performed by a solo operator
- **An Infection Prevention Department** is available in hospitals and dental schools; dental offices need a specific assistant to do this job in the clinic setting – training/certification may be required
- Staff training, practice & cooperation

Physical Changes in the Clinical Setting

- **New Signage** regarding patient/staff COVID-19 protocols
- **Barriers**, i.e. Plexiglass shields
- **Social Distancing** requires more space for patients and staff
- **Open Bay** concept used in many clinics is not conducive to IPC; are new types of barriers required?
- **Adequate Ventilation** in a professional building can be difficult to assess; it may not be possible to change existing building ventilation systems so other solutions are required

Departments in Dental Clinics Require Different Protocols

- Administrative
- Reception
- Treatment Rooms
- Sterilization
- Laboratory
- Staff Area
- Shared Space in Professional Buildings

Clinic Scheduling Changes

- **Fewer procedures** per day, because 15 minutes are recommended by the Organization for Safety, Asepsis & Prevention between patients for sanitation
- **Longer appointments** for each patient to accomplish as much dentistry as possible in one visit
- **Dental outreach** has been eliminated such as mobile dental vans, nursing home visits, school programs

Patient Flow Changes – Eliminating “Gatherings” at the Front Desk

- **Patient Arrival** has changed to include COVID-19 protocols like waiting in the car until texted, temperature check, mask check, etc.)
- **Waiting Room Modifications** to maintain social distancing
- **Only Patients** allowed into clinic – may be hard to understand for parents and other relatives in the AIAN population
- **Patient Checkout** procedure modified

Unresolved Clinic Policy Issues

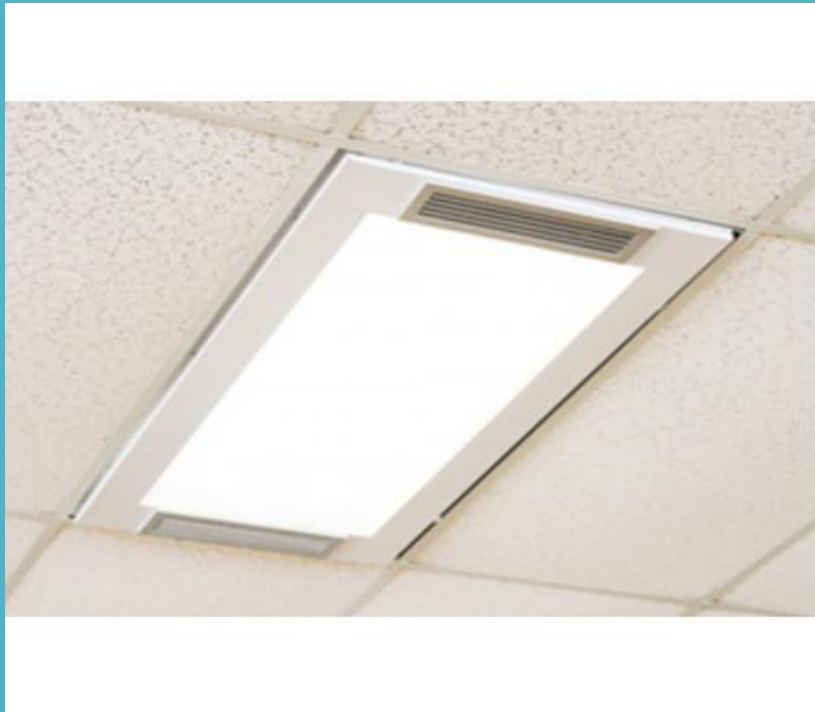
- **May staff leave clinic during work hours?**
- **Who supplies required uniforms**, clinic coats, masks/shields, shoes, hair nets, beard guards, etc.?
- **Who launders** – staff, on site or outside laundry service?
- **Patient Reassurance** about IPC
- **Who does Contact Tracing?**
- **Social Changes** – sharing food/treats, going out to lunch together, office parties, etc.?
- **Can a vaccine be mandated** for all staff?

New Technology-informational only

- Increased Ventilation
- Air Disinfection
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Over-the-patient suction unit
- Handpiece modifications
- Laboratory & Sterilization products

Increased Ventilation

VidaShield Air Purification System



Air Disinfection



Novaerus Defend 1050

Personal Protective Equipment



A-Dec Protect & Sanitize Station

CPAC RH-N95 Mask Sterilizer



Over-the-Patient Suction Unit



ADS EOS Extraoral Dental Suction
system

Handpiece Modifications

Medidenta Air-Free 90 Titan
high speed handpiece



Laboratory & Sterilization



Sterilization Area Designs

Examples of New Technology

- Air Disinfection
- Increased Ventilation
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Over-the-patient suction unit
- Handpiece modifications
- Laboratory & Sterilization products

ISSUE: Where do the funds come from?

Capacity Building

We individuals and organizations need to work together to improve and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do our jobs competently for our patients & staff.

The NIHB Firstline initiative is developed through the active participation of local communities' members in social and economic development, and is encouraged via national and subnational plans.

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Q & A

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