## Infection Control in Dentistry

**Reminder of Requirements**

**Standard (Universal) Precautionary Measures Must Be Applied by All Staff Involved in Dental Treatments.**

### Instruments Used in the Mouth

- All items that can be sterilized and reused in the mouth must be washed, dried, bagged, sealed, sterilized and kept under sterile conditions until the next use.

- Items not bagged and that have been flash sterilized are to be used immediately.

- Instruments that cannot be sterilized and are not disposable must be disinfected and covered with a film before each use.

- **Disposable** materials and instruments must be covered and protected from aerosols. **They must be discarded after use.**

### Waterlines

- Waterlines must be purged according to standards.

### Evacuation System

- Suctions must be irrigated or disinfected according to standards.

### Biomedical Waste

- Biomedical waste must be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation respecting biomedical waste.

### Operative Environment

- **Before each patient,** the operative environment (counters, chairs, lamps, x-ray apparatus, etc.) must be disinfected and, when it is handled, covered with a protective film.

- Chemical indicators must be used with each bag to be sterilized. Each sterilizer must undergo a monthly biological test, carried out by an independent specialized laboratory. For type B sterilizers, a physical test must be conducted once a week.

- All items that leave the clinic laboratory and are intended for use in the mouth and all items sent to outside laboratories must be cleaned, sterilized if possible, or properly disinfected.

- All items from outside laboratories intended for use in the mouth must be cleaned and properly disinfected.

### Personal Protection

- Staff must wash their hands before putting on gloves and after removing them.

- A mask and gloves are required during treatment.

- Protective glasses must be worn by staff and patients during treatment.

- Staff treating patients must be informed of the importance of protecting themselves from infections by means of a proper vaccination program.

- The first-aid protocol in case of occupational exposure must be clearly displayed.

- Patients’ medical questionnaires must be updated at each appointment.

---

Ref.: ORDRE DES DENTISTES DU QUÉBEC, ORDRE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES DU QUÉBEC.  
*Document d’information sur le contrôle des infections – médecine dentaire, 2009.*