

The dental laboratory environment is potentially a source of many infectious diseases.

Health Professionals working in a dental laboratory environment may be exposed to hepatitis, aids, herpes or other infectious diseases through contact with blood, saliva and debris on impressions, dentures, crowns, bridges, appliances and other items or, in some instances, through direct patient contact.

Awareness of infectious disease control is the responsibility of the health professional. Dental technician registrants should be aware of the potential risk to themselves, or the potential loss of income or legal action that may occur if they spread infectious diseases to someone else. There are many sources of information and education regarding appropriate infection control measures for the commercial laboratory.

The College of Dental Technicians does not promote or support any specific product or system to address infection control. It does however currently recommend that:

1. Personnel handling prosthesis, models, impressions or other items sent by dental offices be vaccinated against Hepatitis B and other infectious diseases in order that the possibility of disease acquisition and transmission can be minimized.
2. Registrants observe minimal standards of infection control and ensure there is a system in place to disinfect:
 - ◇ incoming work
 - ◇ work spaces
 - ◇ tools and accessories
 - ◇ work ready for shipping

The College recommends that all dental technicians have the following MINIMUM program in place:

1. WEAR UTILITY GLOVES WHEN OPENING OR HANDLING INCOMING PACKAGES.

(Use eye protection and a face mask if aerosols are expected and advise drivers of the risk of leaking or improperly closed packages.)

2. DISCARD DISPOSABLE PACKAGING MATERIAL AND DISINFECT ALL REUSABLE OR RETURNABLE CONTAINERS.
3. RINSE IMPRESSIONS, DENTURES, TRY-INS, REPAIRS, ETC. UNDER RUNNING WATER, USING CARE NOT TO SPLASH.
4. SOAK OR SPRAY ALL ITEMS WITH AN APPROPRIATE APPROVED DISINFECTANT.
5. CLEAN AND DISINFECT ALL WORK STATIONS AND SHIPPING/RECEIVING BENCHES BETWEEN EACH CASE, AND AT LEAST DAILY.
6. REPLACE PUMICE FOR EACH NEW CASE AND REPAIR AT LEAST DAILY. MIX WITH AN APPROPRIATE AND APPROVED DISINFECTANT AND USE A DISPOSABLE PLASTIC LINER.
7. SOAK BRUSHES, RAG WHEELS, ETC. OVERNIGHT IN AN APPROPRIATE AND APPROVED DISINFECTANT.
8. REGISTRANTS WHO SEE PATIENTS FOR MINOR REPAIRS OR SHADE VERIFICATION MUST FOLLOW ACCEPTED CLINICAL INFECTION CONTROL PROCEDURES.
9. AFTER WORK IS COMPLETED, TREAT THE FINISHED CASE AGAIN WITH AN APPROPRIATE APPROVED DISINFECTANT BEFORE RETURNING TO THE DENTAL OFFICE.

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COLLEGE OF DENTAL TECHNICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

As of March 1, 2002, the College has implemented an infection control component in the continuing education requirement for registrants.

The College now requires that 3 technical credit hours, of the 30 required continuing education credits in each cycle, be obtained from courses addressing infection control.

INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES

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