

# **Summary of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

- 1. All personnel working with a patient(s) must wear PPE (i.e. a long sleeve gown) when splashes of possible infectious materials are anticipated.**
  - a. Disposable gowns are recommended.**
  - b. Any necessary coat/gown may be provided and maintained by the employer.**
- 2. Protective clothing must be hung in operatory and not worn outside of operatory and should be discarded in red hazardous bag when soiled.**
- 3. Hand hygiene must be performed.**
  - a. Hand hygiene should consist of either using an alcohol based handrub or handwashing with soap and water for 15 seconds before and after each patient contact.**
  - b. Alcohol based handrub is the preferred hand hygiene regimen in almost all dental procedures.**
- 4. Safety Glasses or full face shields must be worn.**
  - a. All other glasses must have side shields**
- 5. FDA approved surgical face-masks must be worn with mouth and nose covered.**
- 6. A new set of gloves should be donned and must be worn during all procedures and should be changed if personnel touch an contaminated object/surface/device.**
  - a. Gloves also must be changed between patients and should never be washed and/or reused.**
- 7. Fingernails should be kept short and smooth.**
- 8. No rings/jewelry should be worn except a wedding band.**

# **Summary of Cleaning, Packaging and Sterilization of Dental Instruments**

## **Before/After each Appointment/Patient Operatory Disinfection and Set Up:**

1. **All clinical contact surfaces must be wiped with an EPA registered disinfectant.**
  - a. **Tuberculocidal agents offer broader disinfection spectrum.**
2. **Disposable & impervious barrier protection should be used on as many clinical contact surfaces as possible.**
  - a. **These barriers must be changed between patients.**
3. **Disinfect any clinical contact surfaces that have not been covered with an impervious barrier.**
  - a. **This includes chair, counters, light, drawers, knobs, x-ray equipment, faucet handles, dental unit heads and tubing, pens, reusable dental containers etc.**
4. **Sterile instruments should be retrieved for each patient.**
  - a. **Do not open sterile packaging until the patient is seated in the chair.**
5. **Upon completion of the procedure dismiss the patient and take the entire tray with dirty instruments to the sterilization area and place in the designated “dirty” area.**
6. **New covers should be placed and the room should be disinfected before next patient is seated.**

## **Sterilization Procedures:**

### **Instructions for Loading Steam Autoclave:\***

1. Retrieve packaged instruments from bin marked “dirty”
2. Lay bags flat on shelf of autoclave with no overlapping, paper side up
3. Fill top reservoir to fill line with distilled water
4. Turn it on
5. Turn valve handle to fill position and let water enter the chamber until it reaches water line mark in bottom of chamber
6. Turn valve handle to sterilize position
7. Close door and turn handle tight
8. Turn temperature dial to manufacturer specifications.
  - a. Usually between the 250-273 degrees (varies by unit).
9. Turn timer knob for desired time per manufacturer’s instructions,
  - a. Typically 35-40 minutes.
10. Once cycle is complete and timer reaches zero turn valve to dry or EXH on unit.
11. Open door 1 inch. Turn timer knob to 30 minutes for drying cycle.
  - a. Packs/pouches must be dry before removing and storing.
12. When drying cycle is complete turn main switch to stop and turn unit off.
13. Remove bags and check chemical color strip to insure sterilization process has occurred.
  - a. Before sterilization pink, after sterilization indicator should be brown.
14. Rebag and reload if not successful.
15. Place in sterile storage until instruments are delivered to treatment area.
16. Instruments stay wrapped until they are ready to use.

17. Monitor sterilization weekly with biological monitors.

- \* **Instructions can vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. Check your specific manual for operating instructions**

**Sterilization Quality Assurance:**

1. Have clear instructions on how to perform cleaning and sterilization.
2. Have clear instructions on how to properly maintain cleaning and sterilization devices/equipment.
3. Make certain everyone involved with cleaning and sterilization is properly trained.
4. Periodically monitor personnel responsible for cleaning and sterilization to maximize compliance.

5.

***Human error* is the most common  
cause of failure to properly sterilize  
instruments in the dental office.**