Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care

MODULE 3 — Personal Protective Equipment
Modules in the Slide Series

1. Introduction
2. Hand Hygiene
3. **Personal Protective Equipment (this module)**
4. Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
5. Sharps Safety
6. Safe Injection Practices
7. Sterilization and Disinfection of Patient-Care Items and Devices
8. Environmental Infection Prevention and Control
9. Dental Unit Water Quality
10. Program Evaluation
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

• Protects the skin and mucous membranes from exposure to infectious materials in spray or spatter.
• Should be worn whenever there is potential for contact with spray or spatter.
• Should be removed when leaving work areas.
Masks, Protective Eyewear, Face Shields

• Wear a surgical mask and either eye protection with solid side shields or a face shield to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth.

• Change masks:
  – Between patients.
  – If mask becomes wet during patient treatment.

• Clean reusable face protection:
  – Between patients (with soap and water).
  – If visibly soiled (by cleaning and disinfecting).
Protective Clothing

• Wear gowns or lab coats that cover skin and personal clothing likely to become soiled with blood, saliva, or infectious material.

• Change if visibly soiled.

• Remove all barriers before leaving the work area.
Gloves

- Prevent contamination of DHCP’s hands when touching mucous membranes, blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials.
- Reduce the likelihood that microorganisms present on the hands of DHCP will be transmitted to patients during surgical or other patient-care procedures.
- Do not eliminate or replace the need for handwashing.
# Glove Types – Patient Examination Gloves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glove Type</th>
<th>Indications</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient examination gloves</td>
<td>Patient care, examinations, other nonsurgical procedures involving contact with mucous membranes, and laboratory procedures.</td>
<td>Medical device regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Nonsterile and sterile single-use disposable. Use for one patient and discard appropriately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003
## Glove Types – Surgeon’s Gloves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glove Type</th>
<th>Indications</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surgeon’s gloves</td>
<td>Surgical procedures</td>
<td>Medical device regulated by FDA. Sterile and single-use disposable. Use for one patient and discard appropriately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003
## Glove Types – Nonmedical Gloves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glove Type</th>
<th>Indications</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonmedical gloves</td>
<td>Housekeeping procedures (e.g., cleaning, disinfection).</td>
<td>Not a medical device regulated by FDA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handling contaminated sharps or chemicals.</td>
<td>Commonly referred to as utility, industrial, or general purpose gloves. Should be puncture or chemical resistant, depending on the task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not for use during patient care.</td>
<td>Latex gloves do not provide adequate chemical protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sanitize after use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003
Glove Recommendations

• Wear gloves when contact with blood, saliva, and mucous membranes is possible.

• Wear a new pair of gloves for each patient.

• Remove gloves after patient care and perform hand hygiene immediately.
Glove Recommendations

Remove gloves that are torn, cut, or punctured.

Do not wash, disinfect, or sterilize medical gloves for reuse.
Putting On and Removing PPE

- Follow recommended sequences for PPE donning and removal.
- Recommended sequences and related material available at Protecting Healthcare Personnel
Safe Work Practices

• Keep gloved hands away from face.
• Limit surfaces and items touched.
• Change gloves when torn.
• Remove PPE when leaving work areas.
• Perform hand hygiene immediately after removing PPE.
PPE Resources

- CDC. *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings*—2003
- CDC. *Guidance for the Selection and Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Healthcare Settings*
- CDC. *2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings*
  - Figure. Example of Safe Donning and Removal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- CDC. *Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care*
End of Module 3

For more information, contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY:1-888-232-6348 • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC.