

INFECTION CONTROL GUIDANCE FOR 802 SMILES NETWORK PROGRAMS

This presentation is just a summary of IPC recommendations and **is not intended to replace guidance from the CDC or OSAP**. Please refer to them for the latest protocols for the services you provide and the settings where you provide them.



Every School Site is Different

Every school “clinic” site will differ from one school to another.

That said, every effort should be made to adhere to recommended guidelines from the CDC and OSAP

WHY DO ALL
THIS?
WHAT
ARE THE “BAD
BUGS?”

We have primarily **bacteria** and **viruses**.

Bacteria: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Staphylococcus, and Streptococcus*, are the main contagions.

Viruses: *Hepatitis B and C, Herpes simplex type 1 and 2, Herpes zoster, Cytomegalovirus, HIV virus, SARS-coV-2* and other upper respiratory viruses.



VACCINATION FOR PREVENTION AND SAFETY

It is recommended to be up-to-date on all vaccines recommended for health care providers.

POST-PANDEMIC INFECTION CONTROL FOR A SCHOOL DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

All protocols should include protective measures against COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

Do your best to adapt these standards to the “clinic” area.

PPE is **key** for infection prevention and control.
Your safety is #1.

PPE SEQUENCE

PLEASE NOTE: This slide lists multiple examples of PPE available to healthcare settings; **refer to CDC and OSAP for the latest PPE guidance for your risk level, the setting where you work, and the services you provide.**

1. Clean hands: wash or waterless (alcohol-based hand rub).
2. Don isolation gown.
3. Put on mask (well-fitted surgical mask or a respirator such as N-95).
4. Put on a face shield or protective eyewear.
5. Put on gloves: ideally, cover arm completely.
6. See [PPE Sequence infographic](#) from the CDC.



ENHANCED INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN OUR POST-COVID WORLD



*****MAKE SURE YOUR VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19 IS UP-TO-DATE*****



Masking
Recommendation: wear a well-fitted surgical mask or a respirator such as N95 mask when indoors at any treatment area/facility.



Screen all patients for any respiratory/COVID-19 symptoms.



Maintain **safe distancing** when possible.



Practice “Universal Eye Protection” **when indoors at any treatment area/facility.**



In addition to all CDC standard infection control protocols, see recommendations in the next slide.

*These recommendations **do not** replace the latest guidance from the CDC ; please refer to the [CDC website](#) for updated guidance for health care professionals according to your location, your personal risk level, and for the services you provide.
For additional indicators of COVID spread in your area, check out [CDC’s COVID DATA TRACKER](#).



INFECTION CONTROL: ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE IN OUR POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

- For supplemental guidance from OSAP specifically for school-based sealant programs, go to our [802 Smiles website](#), scroll down to the Training & Continuing Education section, and click on [Infection Prevention and Control Guide for School Sealant Programs](#).
- Maintain 6 feet distance between patients, participants, and the dental chair – this is important for multiple chair set-ups (in settings with low community spread, this may not be necessary, but still recommended if there is adequate space).
- Use HEPA air filters **when available**. The higher the CADR (Clean Air Delivery Rate), the better.
- Contain the working space as best as possible and position the HEPA filter strategically to capture as much air volume within the space as possible.

SUMMARIZING

Cover upper half of chair with 30-gallon trash bag, wipe down after use, set aside to dry and put on a new bag for next child. Additionally, wipe down chair completely after each child.

Screen patients for COVID-19 or “flu-like” symptoms.

CHECK WITH THE NURSE if the child appears not well or states they feel sick, refer them back to the nurse **BEFORE** treating them.

It is best to wear a mask at all times when indoors and at any treatment area/facility.

If following the normal CDC guidelines for infection control plus the PPE recommendations, you are adequately protected against COVID.

Always follow CDC standard precautions guidance!

Rescheduling after COVID-19

Each school may have their own guidelines, but we recommend following up-to-date [CDC Isolation Precautions for People with COVID-19](#) when rescheduling.

For most people who test positive, the recommendation is to stay in isolation for at least 5 days. For those who had symptoms, CDC recommends that they continue to wear a high-quality mask around others through day 10 after symptoms started.

Considering the above, you should not schedule patients for at least 10 days after their confirmed positive test.

Per OSAP guidelines, If the student reports or presents symptoms, defer treatment and report to the designated person at the school (in most cases, the school nurse).

As DHCPs, it is advisable that you review the CDC guidelines often. [Click here for the current CDC guidance](#).

THE WORKING AREA ENVIRONMENT

When possible, always
use a surface barrier

For “wiping down,”
always use an
EPA-registered
disinfectant.

DISCARDING DISPOSABLES



Disposal of all material can be put in the regular trash bin **unless they are blood contaminated.**



Blood contaminated material should be placed in a biohazard container or ask the school nurse what their protocol is for this type of disposal.



It is best to follow the routine in the nurse's office.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Assess your own personal risk** and take the recommended precautions to protect yourself (see [this CDC content](#) to guide your prevention decisions)
- **Remain up-to-date** on the latest IPC guidance:
 - [CDC guidance for all settings where healthcare is delivered](#) (includes dental offices)
 - [OSAP guide developed specifically for school sealant programs](#)
- **Follow recommendations** from your school nurse (or appropriate person in your school) regarding children who are not feeling well, and be familiar with the following resources:
 - [Vermont guidance for PreK-12 schools](#)
 - [CDC public health guidance for schools](#)