Dental infection control checklist

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Office: _____ State: _____ Coordinator: _____

Date: _____

Program and coordinator

☐	One person trained in infection prevention is named as the coordinator	CDC
☐	Written infection prevention policies and procedures, specific to this office	CDC; State
☐	Policies reassessed regularly (for example yearly) or as your state requires	CDC; State
☐	Written exposure control plan, accessible to employees	OSHA (c)(1)
☐	Exposure control plan reviewed and updated at least annually	OSHA (c)(1)(iv)
☐	Your state dental board rule read, and its extra items added to this list	State

Standard precautions and hand hygiene

☐	All staff treat blood and body fluids as potentially infectious	OSHA (d)(1); CDC
☐	Handwashing facilities readily accessible	OSHA (d)(2)(iii)
☐	Hands washed right after gloves or other PPE come off	OSHA (d)(2)(v); CDC
☐	Hand hygiene before and after each patient, and when hands are visibly soiled	CDC
☐	Soap and water when hands are visibly soiled; alcohol-based rub otherwise	CDC

Personal protective equipment

☐	Gloves, masks, eye protection and gowns provided at no cost, in the right sizes	OSHA (d)(3)(i), (iii)
☐	New gloves for each patient; gloves never washed or reused	CDC
☐	Mouth, nose and eye protection for procedures that splash or spatter	OSHA (d)(3)(x); CDC
☐	PPE taken off before leaving the work area	OSHA (d)(3)(vii); CDC

Sharps and injections

☐	Needles never recapped with two hands; one-handed scoop or a cap holder	OSHA (d)(2)(vii); CDC
☐	Sharps containers closable, puncture resistant, leakproof, labeled, close to use	OSHA (d)(4)(iii)(A)
☐	Safer devices considered and documented in the yearly plan review	OSHA (c)(1)(iv)
☐	One needle, one syringe, one patient; single-dose vials for one patient only	CDC
☐	Multidose vials dated when opened and kept out of the operatory	CDC

Instrument processing and sterilization

☐	Reusable items cleaned and sterilized or disinfected per the manufacturer's instructions	CDC
☐	Reprocessing instructions kept in or near the sterilization area	CDC
☐	Only trained staff process instruments, wearing PPE	CDC
☐	Contaminated reusable sharps kept in puncture-resistant containers until processed	OSHA (d)(2)(viii)
☐	Mechanical and chemical indicators checked for every load and logged	CDC
☐	Spore test at least weekly per sterilizer and with every implant load	CDC; State

☐	Failed spore test: sterilizer out of service, retest, action logged	CDC; State
☐	Sterilization records kept as long as your state requires	CDC; State

Surfaces and housekeeping

☐	Written cleaning and decontamination schedule for each area	OSHA (d)(4)(i)
☐	Barriers on hard-to-clean clinical surfaces, changed between patients	CDC
☐	Unbarriered clinical surfaces cleaned and disinfected after each patient	CDC
☐	EPA-registered hospital disinfectant; tuberculocidal if visible blood	CDC
☐	Disinfectant label followed: dilution, contact time, safe use	CDC

Dental unit waterlines

☐	Treatment water at or below 500 CFU/mL of heterotrophic bacteria	CDC; State
☐	Waterlines treated and tested as the unit or product manufacturer says	CDC; State
☐	Sterile water or saline for surgical procedures	CDC
☐	Test results and treatments logged per unit	CDC; State

Respiratory hygiene

☐	Signs at entrances: cover coughs, use tissues, clean hands	CDC; State
☐	Tissues, no-touch bins, hand rub and masks in the waiting area	CDC

Training, vaccines and records

☐	Bloodborne pathogens training at assignment and within one year of the last	OSHA (g)(2)
☐	Infection prevention training at hire, yearly and with new tasks	CDC; State
☐	Hepatitis B vaccine offered within 10 working days of assignment	OSHA (f)(2)
☐	Written policy on staff immunizations; TB screening at hire	CDC
☐	Training records kept 3 years from the date of training	OSHA (h)(2)
☐	Post-exposure steps written, with a referral arranged in advance	OSHA (f)(3); CDC

OSHA = 29 CFR 1910.1030 (law wherever employees have occupational exposure to blood or saliva). CDC = Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings, 2003, and the 2016 Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings (recommendations). State = a requirement only where your state dental board's rule says so; many boards adopt the CDC guidelines, which makes those lines law there. In an OSHA State Plan state, check the state version of the OSHA lines.