

GUIDANCE FOR OPERATORIES

During dental procedures that utilize handpieces, air and water syringes, or ultrasonic scalers a visible spray is created. Thoroughly disinfecting operatory surfaces where large droplet particles may have landed is critical to preventing cross contamination.

- Minimize the amount of items on counters and other surfaces to equipment and instruments necessary to perform the procedures. Remove the following items from operatory counters or exposed shelves:
 - Displays of sample products and demonstration materials
 - Personal photos, mementos, etc.
 - Paper products from open areas (i.e. magazines, note pads, etc.)
 - Children's toys, books, etc.
- Use stick pens only and disinfect during routine operatory disinfection. Dispose of the stick pen cap and remove all other types of pens.
- Consent forms, operatory references, etc. should be laminated or in sheet protectors, stored in a drawer or other closed area, and disinfected after use.
- Barrier protect all hard to disinfect surfaces.
 - Keyboard and computer mouse
 - X-ray unit tube head and exposure button
 - Patient chair, including switches/buttons
 - Light handles and switch
 - Intraoral camera
 - Digital sensor
 - Curing light
- Waste containers should be stored in a cabinet with access through the counter or door for waste disposal. If waste containers are stored outside of a cabinet, they have a lid with hands-free operation (i.e. foot control).
- Refer to the following Clinical Safety Procedures for additional guidance:
 - #19 – Operatory set-up prior to patient treatment
 - #20 – Use of surface barriers
 - #21 – Operatory disinfection after patient treatment
 - #22 – Equipment and surface cleaning
 - #23 – X-ray equipment disinfection

