



California Dental Hygienists' Association
The Voice of Dental Hygiene

**Dental Board of California and Dental Hygiene Committee of California
Update California's Infection Control Guidelines
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The Dental Board of California has revised the California Code of Minimum Standards for Infection Control in the Dental Setting Regulations effective August 20th, 2011. These new regulations have incorporate important science based findings in the area of infection control. Section 1005 of Division 10 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations now conforms with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) changes from 2003 and 2008.

The code has redefined the use of standard precautions and reminds us all that no matter who we are serving or where the services is preformed (such as public health setting), the same standards apply. The application of the standards now includes any licensed professional and all personnel who may be exposed to infectious materials. The standards for hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, sterilization and disinfection, are well defined and gives all Dental Health Care Professionals (DHCP) the regulations for keeping staff and clients safe.

Many areas have been adapted to meet the CDC recommendations including the importance of the proper use of singles use items such as masks and guidelines for record keeping. Keeping Infection control up to date is a vital part of keeping the consumer and the clinician out of harm's way.

Here are some new reminders from the document:

1. Instruments, items, and devices processed by high-level disinfection (cold sterile) must be packaged or wrapped and dated upon completion of the disinfection process.
2. Utility gloves that are chemical and puncture resistant must now be worn by anyone working with germicides or hazardous chemicals and when processing contaminated instruments.
3. If an office has more than one sterilizer, instrument pouches, packages, and wraps must be labeled with the date of sterilization and sterilizer used.
4. Hand washing with soap and water must be performed at the start and end of each workday. Alcohol-based hand rubs may still be used in between glove changes as long as hands are not visibly soiled or contaminated.
5. Protective eyewear and face shields must be cleaned and disinfected after each patient treatment.
6. Masks are single use items and must disposed of when contaminated and between each patient.

It is vital for all Dental Health Care Providers to read and understand the new regulations. CDHA encourages all dental professionals to visit:

http://www.dbc.ca.gov/lawsregs/regulations/ch1_article1.shtml#1005 and review/download this document.