

JJ THOMPSON INFECTION CONTROL POLICY MAY 2020 – *INC COVID* *AMMENDMENTS*

THIS POLICY OPERATES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LABORATORY HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LABORATORY AND ALL ITS STAFF TO FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES BELOW TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL THE LABORATORY TEAM.

In the casting room and around the laboratory

1. Laboratory staff, identified by our infection control risk assessment as being at risk of blood borne viruses particularly HEP B, are immunised. Records of the immunisations are retained.
2. The impressions arriving at the lab should have been disinfected in the surgery as soon as possible after removal from the patients' mouth, they should be free of blood and be labelled to say that disinfection has been complete, If impressions are not labelled to indicate this process has been carried out they should be reported to the Surgery/Clinician of origin and then returned.
3. If an impression appears to be 'dirty' these should be reported to the Surgery/Clinician of origin, photographs to support the complaint should be taken and the impressions should be returned.
4. On receipt of the disinfected/clean impression an additional disinfection process using Impressiv disinfection spray or dip should be performed.
5. PPE - disposable aprons, sleeves and gloves, should be worn along with visors or masks and goggles, until the laboratory disinfection procedure is complete. Protective clothing worn in the casting rooms of the laboratory should not be worn in other depts and should be disposed of in the dept where used.
6. No appliances which have been in direct contact with the patient will be repaired, on receipt of any broken appliances the surgery must be contacted, the appliance should either be returned to the surgery/clinic of origin or disposed after surgery consent.
7. In the event of an injury, pierced by wire or instruments, the wound should if possible be made/allowed to bleed freely, then washed thoroughly under running water and covered with a waterproof dressing. The incident should be discussed with a first aider and recorded in the accident book.
8. After the disinfection and casting process has been completed, casting room staff will dispose of all tissues bags and impression waste in bins in the casting rooms, any items that need to accompany the work into the production area should be placed in a new bag.
9. Work tops that have been used to lay out impressions should be cleaned at the end of the working day with Hospec® general purpose detergent.
10. Laboratory staff who work on plaster models should be aware that micro-organisms can still be active in the casts and should take special care to clean their hands before eating food at the end of the production

session. Sanitising gel or anti-microbial soap is available in all production departments as well as toilets and kitchen for handwashing.

11. No food is to be consumed in the production area, drinks taken into the production area should be in a lidded cup.
12. Anyone developing a reaction to any substance, compound, chemical or the protective gloves must inform their manager immediately.
13. At the end of every day or shift, all hand tools will be put away and the work area will be cleaned down by the technician with sanitising spray or antibacterial wipes.
14. All used disposable PPE such as masks, gloves, aprons and sleeves must not be worn outside of the laboratory and must be disposed of in the bins provided.
15. Lab coats must be cleaned regularly using the external laundering facility, they must not be taken home.

In the despatch area - Disinfection of Dental Appliances

Dental surgeons are responsible, under the Health & Safety at Work Act and COSHH Regulations for disinfection practices within the dental surgery. Primarily for disinfection of impressions materials (2 above) secondarily but equally important for disinfection of the appliances before placing in the patient's mouth.

16. Work that has been completed is sent to the despatch area, the despatch area shall be cleaned with surface disinfectant using an appropriate solution.
17. Appliances which are dispatched from the laboratory are cleaned to reduce manufacturing debris, this process should reduce the level of microorganisms to a level that will not be hazardous.
18. All appliances returned directly to the patient are cleaned and disinfected using Unoguard following the manufacturer's instructions to reduce the levels of micro-organisms on the surface of the appliance.
19. Only staff that have been trained and are recorded as competent shall undertake the processing of outgoing work.
20. Once appropriate cleaning and disinfection has taken place the items will be packed for despatch.