

Personal Protective Equipment and Sterilization

Curriculum Overview

Designed for:

- High school students
- Post-secondary students in dental courses

Length:

The activities in this curriculum will last approximately four to seven hours.

Goal:

To help participants understand personal protective equipment and sterilization.

Synopsis:

This curriculum will help students learn standard precautions and prevention of disease transmission, how to prevent cross-contamination during dental procedures, dental instrument sterilization, and occupation safety and administrative protocols.

Curriculum Components:

- Curriculum – Complete lessons, including detailed steps of activities, time and materials needed, student handouts, and instructor information to teach the lesson
- Presentation slides
- Student materials

Learning Objectives:

Lesson 1 – Standard Precautions and the Prevention of Disease Transmission

- Recognize infectious diseases and their relationship to the patient and occupational risk
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to review medical history to prevent adverse reactions during dental care
- Demonstrate an understanding of proper hand hygiene as performed before, during, and after oral surgery and intraoral procedures
- Describe how to protect the patient and operator by using personal protective equipment
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to protect the patient and operator through the reduction of aerosol, droplets, and spatter

Lesson 2 – Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures

- Demonstrate an understanding of how to maintain aseptic conditions to prevent cross-contamination for procedures and services
- Explain the need for surface barriers
- Identify single-use and reusable items
- Discuss pre-cleaning and disinfection

Lesson 3 – Dental Instrument Sterilization

- Explain how to process reusable dental instruments and devices
- List the seven steps involved in processing dental instruments
- Describe the most common methods of heat sterilization and the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to monitor and maintain processing equipment and sterilizers

Lesson 4 – Occupational Safety/Administrative Protocols

- Demonstrate an understanding of occupational safety standards and guidelines for personnel
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to maintain and document programs/policies for infection control and safety