



## **Parish Dental Practice Policy: Infection Control and Decontamination**

### **Policy Statement:**

Parish Dental Practice is committed to implementing stringent infection control and decontamination procedures to prevent the spread of infections within the practice. This policy outlines the necessary measures to ensure a safe and sterile environment for both patients and staff.

### **Objective:**

To minimize the risk of infection transmission by adhering to the highest standards of cleanliness, sterilization, and decontamination in accordance with regulatory guidelines and best practices.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all employees, contractors, and patients of Parish Dental Practice, encompassing all aspects of infection control and decontamination.

### **Detailed Procedures:**

#### **1. Hand Hygiene:**

- Enforce strict hand hygiene practices, including handwashing and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers before and after patient contact, and after handling contaminated instruments or surfaces.

#### **2. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

- Mandate the use of appropriate PPE, such as gloves, masks, eye protection, and gowns, during dental procedures.
- Ensure proper disposal of single-use PPE and appropriate cleaning of reusable protective gear.

#### **3. Instrument Sterilization and Disinfection:**

- Implement protocols for the cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of dental instruments and equipment.
- Use autoclaves or other approved sterilization methods, following the manufacturer's guidelines.

#### **4. Surface Decontamination:**

- Regularly clean and disinfect environmental surfaces in treatment areas, using appropriate disinfectant agents.





- Focus on high-touch surfaces such as dental chairs, countertops, and door handles.

## 5. **Waste Management:**

- Dispose of clinical waste, including sharps and biologically contaminated materials, in accordance with legal and environmental regulations.
- Use designated, labeled containers for different types of waste.

## 6. **Management of Spills:**

- Establish procedures for safely managing and cleaning up blood and other potentially infectious material spills.

## 7. **Patient Screening and Management:**

- Implement patient screening procedures for infectious diseases and manage patients accordingly to prevent cross-contamination.

## 8. **Training and Education:**

- Provide comprehensive training for all staff on infection control and decontamination practices.
- Update training regularly and whenever new guidelines or procedures are introduced.

## 9. **Monitoring and Auditing:**

- Regularly monitor and audit infection control practices to ensure compliance and identify areas for improvement.
- Take corrective action as needed based on audit findings.

## 10. **Policy Review and Improvement:**

- Review and update the infection control and decontamination policy regularly to reflect changes in guidelines, technology, and practice needs.

## **Enhanced Responsibility and Compliance:**

- **Practice Manager:** Responsible for overseeing the implementation and adherence to the infection control and decontamination policy.
- **Infection Control Officer or Team:** Dedicated staff to monitor compliance, manage training, and update procedures.
- **All Staff Members:** Required to follow the infection control and decontamination procedures and participate in training.

Policy written by **Dr Pavan Amar Singh Bhogal GDC: 273704**

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

Updated Yearly

