

Latest Review: 16/05/2020

## INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Considering recent events and the outbreak of Covid-19 S4S London has amended this policy into sub sections.

**Section 1** Outlines our expectations of the dental clinic with regard to minimising the transmission of infectious diseases.

**Section 2** Outlines the procedures that we have in place in order to minimise the transmission of infectious diseases.

A high standard of infection control is of prime importance, as it is essential to the safety of all who come into contact with our laboratory. Every member of staff will receive training in all aspects of infection control, including decontamination of impressions, appliances and equipment; a policy that must be adhered to at all times. If there is any aspect that is not clear, please ask.

This policy operates in conjunction with the laboratory health and safety policies

This policy will be reviewed at regular intervals and it is important that you understand it fully and are prepared to answer any questions that clients may ask you about it.

### Section 1:

1. All impressions taken should be rinsed under running water for any salivary residue and then disinfected in a bath of appropriate water/disinfectant (recommended) or sprayed with an appropriate disinfectant (not recommended).
2. The disinfected impression should be bagged appropriately, marked as such and sealed to avoid any leakages.
3. Lab dockets should be written outside of the clinical area and packed separately, ideally inserted into a pocket of the impression bag (avoid staples as this may cause bags to leak).
4. Collection drivers will be provided protective PPE to handle the clinical items collected. All bags will be wiped down on collection with disinfectant.

### Section 2:

- 1a. Laboratory staff are immunised against blood-borne viruses as identified by our infection control risk assessment and in accordance with available industry guidance. Records of these immunisations are retained.
- 1b. Any staff reporting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked not to attend work and to isolate accordingly.
- 1c. All staff will be checked daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and advised to isolate accordingly if necessary.
2. The laboratory provides appropriate protective clothing, gloves, eyewear and masks that must be worn by technicians during all production procedures. Protective clothing worn in the laboratory must not be worn outside the laboratory premises.
3. Before donning gloves, hands must be washed using the laboratory's preferred hand wash/disinfectant.
4. All working areas will be kept as clear as possible, clearly identified and, after each session, cleaned with detergent and an appropriate disinfectant.

5. In the event of an inoculation injury, the wound will if possible be made/allowed to bleed freely, then washed thoroughly under running water and covered with a waterproof dressing. The incident will be recorded in the accident book and immediately discussed with the appropriate manager to assess whether further action is needed.
6. All clinical waste will be placed in the appropriate containers provided in each area.
7. All dental impressions will be rinsed until visibly clean, disinfected using an appropriate disinfectant and identified accordingly.
8. All appliances returned from a dental clinic will be disinfected in a separate specific bath as a precautionary measure prior to further processing.
9. Prior to despatch to the dental clinic, appliances and any other work will be cleaned or steam cleaned where appropriate and disinfected to reduce the levels of micro-organisms on the surface of the appliance. The appliance is then packed ready for preparation/disinfection by the dental clinic before being placed in the patient's mouth.
10. Any accidental spillages involving a potentially hazardous substance will be reported to the appropriate manager.
11. Anyone developing a reaction to any substance, compound or chemical or the protective gloves must inform the appropriate manager immediately.
12. All staff involved with clinical procedures will receive appropriate training in all aspects of infection control including decontamination. This will be reviewed and recorded annually.
13. Eating and drinking is strictly prohibited in any receiving, production or despatch area.
14. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the laboratory.

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Jinesh Patel  
Managing Director