

Dental Office Re-Entry into Practice.

With the recent situation of office closures related to SARS COV-2 (COVID-19), maxill is supporting dental offices with a resource tool that will be useful in ensuring a smooth transition back into practice and an evaluation tool for those that have already re-opened. During a respiratory viral outbreak, additional precautions become an extension of routine practice with specific tasks requiring attention to comply with the standards of practice.

1. Inventory

- Gloves
- Eyewear
- Face Shields
- Surgical Masks
- Respirator Masks
(N95 or equivalent per Health Canada)
- Isolation Gowns Disposable
- Reusable Gowns
(if applicable, confirm the # of maximum uses before expiration)
- Plastic barriers
- Rubber dam
(Dam, forceps and clamps. Forceps and clamps must be sterilized)
- 1% H2O2 rinse for PPR
- If office uses N2O, do the tanks need replenishing?
- Investigate inventory to remove any expired products
- General overview and inventory of supplies and materials

2. Staffing & Training

- IPAC General
- IPAC Specific to COVID-19
- Hand Hygiene Simulation
- PPE Selection & Sequence Simulation
- What's New in the Office Team Meeting and Tour
- Simulation exercise to 'What's New in the Office' (if required)
- Respiratory Protection Program: Respirator Fit Test
- CPR Updates
(CPR level HCP with Bag Valve Mask Resuscitator)
- H & S Course's Updates
- Review social distancing policy for staff
(lunch room/staggered arrivals)

3. Written Policies and Procedures

- Update all changes made to office in the IPAC and H & S Manual
- Have all screening protocols in place to include new forms
 - Pre-screening
 - Direct screening
 - Post screening
 - Staff screening
- Analyse existing QA logs and update/add new logs as required
- Review employee contracts and update as required
- If a paper office, evaluate where paper can be reduced
- If a paper office, determine how client signatures will be obtained to maintain asepsis
- Draft a letter for client's in the event of an outbreak of SARS COV-2 in the practice

4. Technology

- Purchase touch free thermometers
- Ensure all team passwords and logins are functional
- Confirm internet connection
- Ensure all internal networking systems are communicating
- Ensure uninterrupted navigation of all screens of software
- Determine if a software update is required
- Test connectivity with digital radiography
- Confirm 'back-up' is completed
- Confirm electronic billing server is operational
- Confirm payment processing terminals are functioning
- Ensure communication between computer terminals to printer
- Run a printer test sheet and inspect ink cartridges
- Test connectivity with intra oral cameras

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5. Dental Unit Water Lines

- If municipal, air purge all lines and consider a water line test with maxill H2O Dental Unit Waterlines Lab Testing

If closed system...

- Empty any water remaining in bottles
- Air purge all lines
- Initiate a clean, disinfect and test regimen
- Clean with Zymax enzymatic cleaner
- End cleaning with a water purge
- Disinfect with Aqua FX
- Use Peracetic Acid Test Strips to confirm all traces of Aqua FX have been flushed from the line
- End disinfection with a water purge
- Collect samples for testing and test with maxill H2O Dental Unit Waterlines Lab Testing
- Log all activities

*Note: DUWL is not an event, it's an ongoing process that should never stop even during an office closure

6. Suction

- Inspect and change all suction traps in operatories and confirm no air leaks
- Inspect and change main suction trap
- Clean all suction lines with maxblast and Zymax
- Disassemble suction couplings (SVE & HVE) to clean (sterilize if metal)

7. Air Quality / Aerosols

- HVAC Professional Consultation if required to determine the # of air changes per hour
- Consider HEPA filter units for operatories and hallways
- Determine the fallow times for AGP for each op using the CDC Table 3 Fallow times (<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html>)

Air Quality / Aerosols (continued)

- Ensure the Respiratory Protection Plan includes mitigation for aerosols to address:
 - PPR
 - Rubber dam
 - HVE
- Evaluate the need for non-traditional HVE systems (larger diameter tips, mirror adapted HVE, funnel style, etc.)
- Evaluate the need for a stand alone medical grade HVE system
- Erect walls (permanent or temporary) to close off openings from floor to ceiling (see directives as may be dependent on the geographical areas regulatory body)
- Designate one entry / exit into the operatory
- Designate one entry /exit into the office

8. Sterilizers

- Turn on all sterilizers and note any communications from dashboard (rectify if necessary)
- Re-qualify all sterilizers with 3 consecutive BI and type V CI in PCD
- If sterilizer is pre-vacuum, re-qualify with 3 consecutive type II BI air detection PCD
- Complete thorough inspection following MIFU

9. IPAC Overview

- Confirmation of the appointment of an IPAC Representative
- MIFU are in place for all instruments reprocessed
- MIFU are in place for equipment

