Infection Control Policy

Students are required to follow standard precautions. Policies and procedures comply with guidelines issued by the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the American Dental Association (ADA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the organization for safety and asepsis procedures (OSAP).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Gloves, Mask, Protective Eyewear and Uniform Policy

Students will practice standard precautions, gloves, mask, uniform and protective eyewear will be worn when appropriate.

Appropriate PPE will be worn when:
- Cleaning/Disinfecting
- Patient treatment
- Handling contaminated instruments and other items
- Handling chemicals
- Exposing and processing radiographs

Handwashing Policy

Students will perform an initial thorough handwashing upon entering the dental affiliation. Hands must be washed before and after treating each patient, prior to glove placement, following glove removal, after inadvertent barehanded touching of contaminated surfaces or objects and before leaving the facility.

Glove Policy

Examination Gloves
- These gloves are used for intraoral treatment
- This type of glove can not be washed nor re-used
- Gloves will be changed when the integrity of the glove has been compromised

Utility Glove
- These heavy duty gloves are utilized when:
  - Handling/mixing chemicals
  - Cleaning/disinfecting
  - Cleaning/reprocessing contaminated instruments
  - Removing trash
Over Gloves

In affiliation sites where these gloves are available, these gloves will be utilized. Otherwise, student will remove examination gloves and will wash hands to prevent cross-contamination. These gloves are used over examination gloves.

- To retrieve addition supplies during patient treatment
- Handling patient charts
- Under utility gloves to protect skin from chemicals when utility gloves are removed.

Face Mask Policy

Face masks should be worn whenever there is a risk of spraying or splashing of body fluids or chemicals.

Face masks are used for the following procedures:
- During patient treatment
- When cleaning contaminated instruments and items
- When handling chemicals
- Under face shields

Masks should be changed for every patient or more often, particularly if heavy spatter is generated during treatment.

Protective Eyewear Policy

Protective eyewear with side shields (or face shields) should be worn whenever there may be contamination of the eyes with aerosols, sprays, or splashes of body fluids or chemicals.

Uniform Policy
Uniforms with long-sleeves, Disposable or washable should be worn. Uniforms should not be worn outside the office. Employers are responsible to laundry uniforms as required by OSHA.

Protective Barriers and Equipment Asepsis

Cleaner/Disinfectant Chemical
An EPA hospital level cleaner/disinfectant with tuberculocidal activity should be used on surfaces after contamination. Areas where barriers are used should be cleaned at the beginning and end of each day. These are disposable items.