

Infection Control Policy

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

James Anthony, Precision Full Service Laboratories Infection Control Lead.

This policy operates in conjunction with the Laboratories Health and Safety and governance Policies and will be reviewed at regular intervals. It is important that you understand it fully and are prepared to answer any questions that clients may ask you about it.

Our Staff

1. Laboratory staff should be immunised against blood-borne viruses as identified by infection control risk assessment and in accordance with available industry guidance. Records of these immunisations should be retained.
2. Following Coronavirus all staff will be temperature checked on arrival at the premises when signing in. Staff will also use one of the TORK electronic alcohol hand sanitisers situated by the laboratory entrances and will be asked to use these or wash their hands using antibacterial dispensers regularly during the day.
3. 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 laboratories must not be worn outside the laboratories premises.
4. Before donning gloves, hands must be washed using our electronic TORK foam soap dispensers and/or our electronic TORK Alcohol hand sanitisers.
5. In the event of an inoculation injury, the wound should if possible be made/allowed to bleed freely, then washed thoroughly under running water and covered with a waterproof dressing. The incident should be recorded in the accident book and immediately discussed with James Anthony to assess whether further action is needed.
6. Advice on post-exposure prophylaxis can be obtained from:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/blood-borne-viruses/how-deal-exposure-incident.html>
7. Anyone developing a reaction to any substance compound or chemical or the protective gloves must inform James Anthony immediately.

8. All staff involved with clinical procedures must receive appropriate training in all aspects of infection control including decontamination. This should be reviewed and recorded annually.
9. Eating, drinking, smoking and vaping is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** in any Incoming, Production or Despatch Area.

Incoming Work

10. All appliances which have been in the mouth and impressions should be treated with universal precaution as potential sources of infectious microorganisms.
11. Before departing the practice all laboratory work (impressions, fixed and removable appliances, dental prostheses, wax try-ins, bite registrations, bridges for re-etching etc) destined for Precision should be disinfected and a record of this should be made either on the lab docket or a sticker placed firmly on the lab bag by the clinician.
12. On receipt of work in the laboratory it will be placed in the receiving area for incoming work. The work will be checked to ensure a record of disinfection has been recorded by the sending clinician. Any item that does not have a record of disinfection will need to be immediately disinfected using Perform-Id I by trained laboratory staff before booking in and following the procedure for disinfection. Such items will be brought to the attention of management, who can then contact the clinician to rectify this.
13. Denture Repairs to the Public. All members of the public will be asked to make an appointment ahead of visiting the Lab and confirm they do not display or have come into contact with anyone displaying symptoms of Coronavirus. They will also be asked to ensure that their broken denture is clean – preferably cleaned with a branded denture cleaning solution such as ‘Steradent’ or ‘Polygrip 3 minute clean’ and agree that following this it not placed back in their mouth. On arrival at the Laboratory members of the public will be checked with our handheld infrared thermometer and should wear a face mask. After assessment the broken denture will be taken to our separate denture repair bench and disinfected using Perform-Id before work commences on the repair.

Production - In Process Work

14. The physical separation of items within designated areas for handling incoming work, processing work or repairs and outgoing work for dispatch helps to stop cross-contamination between work of each type.
15. We have a separate areas for denture repairs to work received from dental practices.
16. There are different sinks for hand washing and for the decontamination of submitted appliances/impressions to reduce the risk cross-contamination.

17. All working areas will be kept to a minimum, clearly identified and, after each session, cleaned with Citrol – Clover Chemicals (detergent) and disinfected using Ultra AX – Clover Chemicals (disinfectant).
18. All clinical waste must be placed in the appropriate containers provided in each area. When no more than three quarters full the containers must be securely fastened and stored in the steel bins in the designated area.
19. Any accidental spillages involving a potentially hazardous substance will be reported to James Anthony.

Despatch - Outgoing Work

20. A specific area for outgoing work has been designated in both laboratory sites for appliances to be despatched. The despatch area is regularly cleaned using AX Ultra (Clover Chemicals) before and after use.
21. Appliances and work being returned to the dental practice will be steam cleaned where possible (not possible with thermo formed materials) and disinfected using Disifin.
22. Following disinfection the appliance will be placed in a heat sealed bag to prevent any further contamination prior to sending out. This bag will be labelled as disinfected with Disifin.

Local Collection and Delivery.

23. We use a dedicated van and delivery drivers for our local collections in the South Wales area. We ensure the van is regularly cleaned outside and inside using AX Ultra (Clover Chemicals). Drivers carry a supply of face masks and alcohol hand sanitiser which is used before and after every stop.
24. We use one box per practice to ensure there is no cross contamination between practices. The side of the van is used to distribute work being delivered, whilst work being collected from practices is placed in the back of the van via the rear doors.

ALL STAFF WILL OBSERVE TOTAL CONFIDENTIALITY IN ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO CLIENTS OF THE LABORATORIES.

Date: 1st April 2021

Review Date: 1st April every year.