

Laboratory Infection Control Policy

A high standard of infection control is of prime importance in this laboratory. 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, this policy must be adhered to at all times. If there is any aspect that is not clear, please ask a member of the management team at the Laboratory.

This policy operates in conjunction with the Laboratory Health and Safety and governance policies. This policy will be reviewed at regular intervals.

1. Laboratory Staff in direct contact with impressions are offered immunization against blood-borne viruses as identified by the laboratories **infection control risk assessment** and in accordance with available industry guidance. Records of these immunisations should be retained.
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 a disinfecting agent.
4. Impressions will be disinfected using a disinfecting agent.
5. All working areas will be kept to a minimum, clearly identified and, after session, cleaned with a disinfecting agent.
6. 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 a First Aider to assess whether further action is needed. Advice on post-exposure prophylaxis can be obtained from **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) | NIH**
7. 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 a secure designated area.
8. All dental impressions, not marked as disinfected, must be rinsed until visibly clean and disinfected using a disinfecting agent and labelled as 'disinfected' before being sent to the production area.
9. Appliances and work being returned to the dental practice should also be decontaminated prior to despatch and provided in a clean condition, **responsibility to disinfect laboratory work before fitting an appliance is with the Dental Clinic, ALS Dental accepts no responsibility for disinfection of appliances before patient contact.**
10. Any accidental spillages involving a potentially hazardous substance will be reported to a manager.
11. Anyone developing a reaction to any substance compound or chemical or the protective gloves must inform a manager immediately.
12. 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.
13. Eating, drinking and smoking is STRICTLY PROHIBITED in any receiving, production or despatch area.

All staff will observe total confidentiality in all information relating to clients of the laboratory.

Date: 01/01/2024

Review Date. 01/01/2025