

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY and HOW can Dental Personnel Protect Themselves from Airborne Infectious Diseases such as Tuberculosis and COVID Pandemics?

WHO?

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|---|---|--|
|  | <p>Healthcare employees (for example, doctors, nurses, <u>dentists</u>) performing aerosol-generating procedures on known or suspected pandemic patients (for example, cough induction procedures, bronchoscopies, some <u>dental procedures</u>, or invasive specimen collection).</p> | <p>According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), <u>dental personnel</u> are among the group of all employees considered to be at highest risk of exposure to airborne infectious diseases.</p> |
| <p>Reference: Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic: OSHA 3327-02N 2007</p> | | |

WHAT?

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|  <p>Figure A</p> |  <p>Figure B</p> |  <p>Figure C</p> |
| <p>Standard Surgical Mask</p> | <p>3M™ Care Particulate Respirator Type N95, Flat-fold/Three-panel, High Fluid resistant, White, #1870</p> | <p>3M™ Health Care Particulate Respirator Type N95, (Cone Molded), Teal, #1860</p> |

Standard surgical masks (see Figure A) that dental personnel typically wear are not designed to prevent inhalation of airborne contaminants. Their ability to filter small particles varies greatly and cannot be assured to protect healthcare workers against airborne infectious agents. Instead, their underlying purpose is to prevent contamination of a sterile field or work environment by trapping bacteria and respiratory secretions that are expelled by the wearer (i.e., protecting the patient against infection from the healthcare worker). Surgical masks are also used as a physical barrier to protect the healthcare worker from hazards such as splashes of blood or bodily fluids.

When both fluid protection (e.g., blood splashes) and respiratory protection are needed, a “Surgical N95” respirator should be used (see Figures B and C). **This is the type of respirator recommended by the CDC and OSHA for healthcare workers to wear when they are exposed to patients with known or suspected respiratory diseases such as TB or Influenza.**

N95 Respirators have a filter efficiency of 95 percent against airborne particles that are 0.3 micron particles in size.

OSHA requires that respirators be **fit-tested** to each individual to ensure they work properly and trained to make sure the employee knows the correct way to put it on and wear it.

WHEN?

It is conceivable that the CDC stockpiled respirators for healthcare will be prioritized to go to hospitals and medical clinics. Dental offices will likely have to rely on their own supply of respirators. If dentists wait until an influenza pandemic actually arrives, they may be unable to provide adequate protection for their staff and themselves. It is also likely that the cost of personal protective equipment will increase considerably during supply shortages. **The time to fit-test your employees and stockpile a sufficient supply of N95 respirators is now.**

WHERE?

Dynamic Dental Safety will come to your office, at your convenience to fit-test your staff.

WHY?

Coughing and sneezing causes bio-aerosols



Most dental procedures that use mechanical instrumentation will produce airborne particles from the site where the instrument is used. Dental handpieces, ultrasonic scalers, air polishers and air abrasion units produce the most visible aerosols.

When performing most dental procedures on patients with known or suspected airborne infectious diseases a N95 Respirator is needed for proper protection.

How?



Dynamic Dental Safety will come to your office at your convenience and perform fit-testing for all your applicable employees. We perform the required OSHA qualitative fit-test which only takes 10-15 min. per person. Each employee is trained on the proper procedure to put on and use their mask.

Fee Schedule:

| Number of Staff Fit-Tested | Price per Person** |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 - 9 | \$50 |
| 9 -20 | \$40 |
| 21+ | \$30 |
| Written Respiratory Protection Program (RPP) | \$300 |

*All fit-testing **REQUIRE** a written Respiratory Protection Program and a Medical Clearance Form (as required by OSHA). There is a \$500 minimum fee for any offices located outside a 50 mile radius of Topsfield, MA

***Contact Dynamic Dental Safety to Schedule On-Site Respirator
Fit-Testing for You and Your Staff
Please call Jessica at: (888) 669-8846, ext. 1***