HYGIENE SUPPORT PROTOCOL

Certain protocols used in a large portable clinic environment will be different than in a normal dental office. These are required because multiple dental professional volunteers with differing backgrounds all working in an unfamiliar setting has the potential to increase patient risk.

Therefore the following protocols must be adhered to without exception:

1. No volunteers under the age of 18 are to volunteer on the clinic floor.

2. There will be no food or beverages, except water on the clinic floor.

3. Volunteers working as Hygiene Support or handling hazardous waste must have had their Hepatitis B vaccination.

4. The following station card colors are used. When a RED card is held up it means the patient treatment is completed. A Patient Ambassador will escort the patient away from the dental work station and the station is ready to be cleaned and decontaminated.
   a. Green – bring me a patient
   b. Red – take the patient to Exit Interview
   c. Yellow – need translator
   d. Orange – need dental technician
   e. Purple – requesting a Nomad X-ray
   f. White w/ red cross – EMT needed

5. Hygiene Support is needed to:
   a. After each patient obtain two 3-ounce cups of pre-mixed peroxide line cleaner and pull one cup through the saliva ejector and one cup through the HVAC.
   b. All surface areas will be wiped down with Cavicide wipes between patients and at the end of the work shift. A WIPE LEFT ON THE PATIENT CHAIR INDICATES THE WORK AREA HAS BEEN WIPE DOWN AND IS READY FOR PATIENT USE.
c. Place contaminated instruments back in the cassette, then place cassette and any additional instruments in an instrument transport box and bring to sterilization.
d. All dirty instrument bins will be located on the dirty table at the end of each row along with the HVAC cleaner.
e. Dirty instruments should be brought to sterilization in a container with a lid. Lids should either be red in color or have the appropriate biohazard label on them. Providers are not to carry contaminated instruments in their hands across the clinic floor.
f. Seat the next patient and make sure chairs are kept filled.
g. Stock supplies in the community bins on the table.
h. Retrieve sterile hygiene cassettes and ultrasonic tips from sterilization. Clean gloves must be worn when picking up instruments from sterilization.
i. Retrieve fluoride varnish from Central Supply.
j. Assist hygienist with any special needs patient as a “second pair of hands”.
k. If an RDH, fill in as a hygienist if needed to keep things running.
l. Be a Team Player and be flexible.

6. Follow all infection control best practices:
   a. Wear gloves and change between patients and when cleaning contaminated surfaces.
   b. Wear a mask when splashing or splattering is likely to occur.
   c. Wear protective eye wear at all times in clinic areas and sterilization.
   d. Protective gowns will be available for your use at your discretion.

7. If you stick yourself or are stuck with any instrument or other sharps, immediately notify the Hygiene Lead or Hygiene Support Lead who will follow the needle stick/sharp instrument protocol.

8. If you are working both the morning and afternoon shifts, please stagger your lunch breaks. Be sure to let the Hygiene Support Lead know how long you will be gone. Someone else may fill-in while you are gone so patient flow isn’t interrupted.