



Ensuring Safety in 802 Smiles School Dental Health Programs

All [802 Smiles](#) programs shall adhere to infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines applicable to the services provided in their respective [tier](#). Maintaining a safe and healthy environment in schools and Head Start programs protects health, supports learning, and builds community trust. Let's make IPC a top priority in 802 Smiles programs to keep students healthy and ensure our efforts are successful and trusted by the community!

Key IPC Principles

- Ensure hand hygiene before and after procedures using soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks, and eye protection.
- Use disposable instruments and materials whenever possible.
- Safely dispose of used items according to local regulations.
- Follow CDC recommendations to ensure air quality, such as minimizing aerosols, maintaining proper ventilation, and optimizing spacing and barriers.

Importance of IPC

- Protects students, school staff, and dental professionals.
- Maintains a safe learning environment.
- Builds trust with parents/guardians and the community.

Common Infection Risks

- Pathogen transmission through saliva and blood
- Cross-contamination from surfaces

Education and Training

- Dental health care professionals should take an IPC training at least once a year
- Provide student education on topics such as oral hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette

For more information, contact VTOralHealth@vermont.gov or AHS.VDHHAIEpi@vermont.gov

Additional Resources

- CDC Dental Infection Prevention and Control - [Foundations: Building the Safest Dental Visit](#). This course equips dental healthcare personnel with essential infection prevention and control knowledge for all dental care settings. It offers three free ADA CERP Continuing Education Units in partnership with the Association for Dental Safety (ADS).
- The [Infection Prevention & Control Guide for School Sealant Programs](#) supplements CDC guidance to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, and dental healthcare personnel involved in these programs.
- ADEA eLearn - [Preparing for Success: Infection Prevention Resources for Future Oral Health Professionals](#). This free webinar, originally developed for future oral health professionals, focuses on the critical role of infection prevention and patient safety in clinical dental settings. Participants are eligible for one Continuing Education credit through ADA CERP.
- [CDC DentalCheck Mobile App](#) is free and runs on [iOS™](#) & [Android™](#) devices. Dental healthcare staff can use the CDC DentalCheck app to periodically assess and ensure their infection prevention practices meet the minimum standards for safe care.
- [802 Smiles Infection Prevention and Control Refresher Training - February 2024](#). It is strongly recommended that dental health care providers undergo at least one IPC refresher training every year to familiarize themselves with the latest guidance from the CDC and ADS.