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Infection Prevention and Control in Dental Practice

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Disclaimer

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Objectives

- Introduce the LDH Project Firstline team as local resource for infection prevention and control support
- Understand key infection prevention & control (IPC) practices in dental settings
- Identify actions that Protect patients and health care personnel from germs

Speakers



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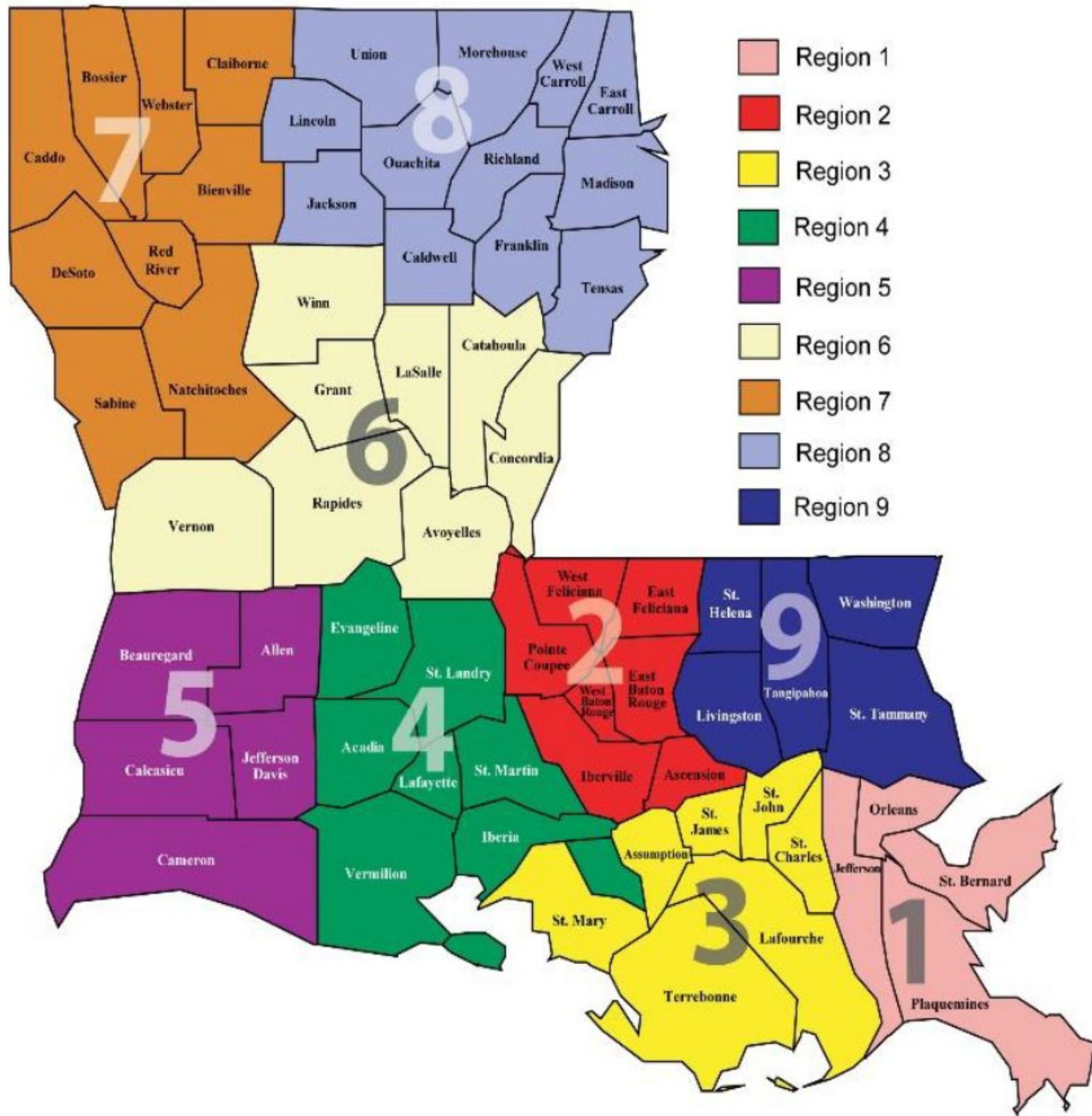
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Why IPC Matters

- Prevents spread of infectious diseases
- Reduces occupational exposure
- Enhances patient safety and trust



<https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/BUILD-HAIAR-Lubbock-Public-Health.pdf>

Chain of Infection

Five Elements of How Germs Spread and Cause Infection



<https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/hcp/training/recognizing-risk.html>

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS



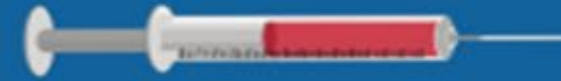
HAND HYGIENE



CLEANING & DISINFECTION



SHARPS SAFETY



RESPIRATORY HYGIENE



PROPER PPE



MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING



**PROJECT
FIRST LINE**
CDC's National Training Collaborative
for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control



https://www.cdpn.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/PublishingImages/ProjectFirstlineStandardPrecautions01_SP.png

Hand Hygiene

Key Recommendations for HAND HYGIENE in Dental Settings

1. Perform hand hygiene—
 - a. When hands are visibly soiled.
 - b. After barehanded touching of instruments, equipment, materials, and other objects likely to be contaminated by blood, saliva, or respiratory secretions.
 - c. Before and after treating each patient.
 - d. Before putting on gloves and again immediately after removing gloves.
2. Use soap and water when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids); otherwise, an alcohol-based hand rub may be used.

[Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care](#)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in dental settings



<https://www.cdc.gov/dental-infection-control/hcp/dental-ipc-faqs/personal-protective-equipment.html>

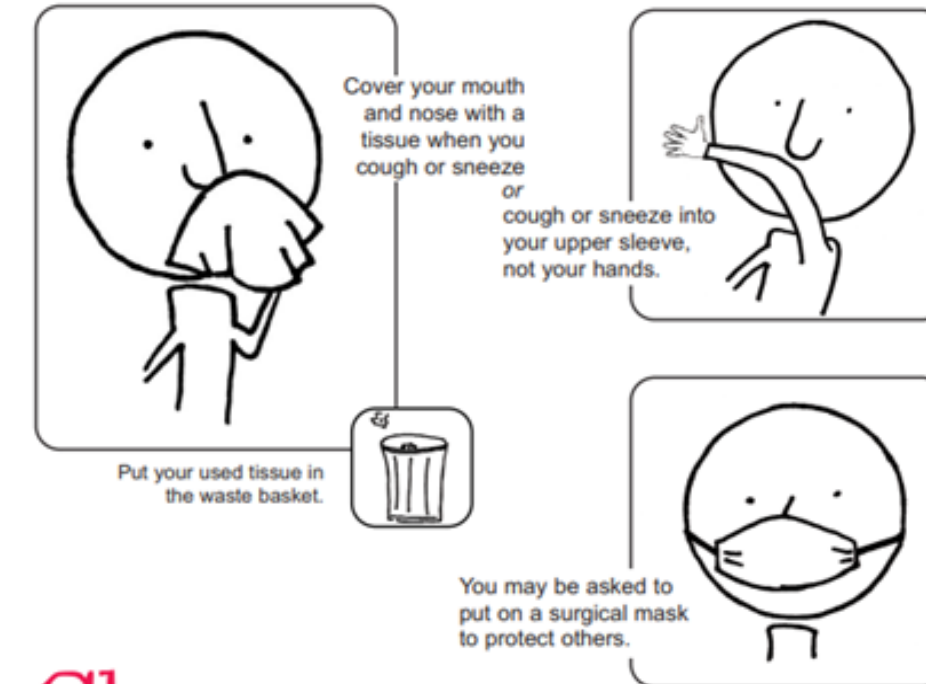
- **PPE**
 - Gloves
 - Masks
 - Eye protection
 - Gowns/lab coats
- **Best Practices**
 - Change gloves between patients
 - Mask/eye protection for activities likely to generate splashes or sprays

Respiratory Hygiene & Cough Etiquette

- Educate patients/staff on covering coughs
- Provide tissues, masks
- Promote hand hygiene
- Separate symptomatic patients

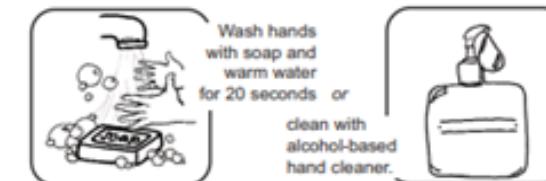
Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

Cover your Cough



Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing.



https://www.cdc.gov/flu-resources/media/pdfs/2024/08/covercough_hcp11x17.pdf

Safe Injection Practices

- Prepare injections using aseptic technique
 - in a clean area
- Disinfect the top part of the vial with an alcohol prep pad
- Do not reuse syringes or needles
- Discard sharps in facility-approved sharps container



<https://www.cdc.gov/dental-infection-control/media/pdfs/besc6-injection-safety-508.pdf>

Instrument Sterilization



<https://www.cdc.gov/dental-infection-control/media/pdfs/2024/07/safe-care2.pdf>

- **Critical Steps**

- Cleaning
- Packaging
- Sterilization
 - Monitoring (mechanical, chemical, biological indicators)
- Storage

- **Methods**

- Autoclave (steam)
- Dry heat
- Chemical vapor

Environmental Infection Control

Key Recommendations for ENVIRONMENTAL INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL in Dental Settings

1. Establish policies and procedures for routine cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in dental health care settings.
 - a. Use surface barriers to protect clinical contact surfaces, particularly those that are difficult to clean (e.g., switches on dental chairs, computer equipment) and change surface barriers between patients.
 - b. Clean and disinfect clinical contact surfaces that are not barrier-protected with an EPA-registered hospital

disinfectant after each patient. Use an intermediate-level disinfectant (i.e., tuberculocidal claim) if visibly contaminated with blood.

2. Select EPA-registered disinfectants or detergents/disinfectants with label claims for use in health care settings.
3. Follow manufacturer instructions for use of cleaners and EPA-registered disinfectants (e.g., amount, dilution, contact time, safe use, disposal).

How to Read a Disinfectant Label

Read the entire label.
The label is the law!

Note: Below is an example of information that can be found on a disinfectant label

Active Ingredients: What are the main disinfecting chemicals?

EPA Registration Number: U.S. laws require that all disinfectants be registered with EPA.

Directions for Use (Instructions for Use): Where should the disinfectant be used? What germs does the disinfectant kill? What types of surfaces can the disinfectant be used on? How do I properly use the disinfectant?

Contact Time: How long does the surface have to stay wet with the disinfectant to kill germs?

Signal Words (Caution, Warning, Danger): How risky is this disinfectant if it is swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin?

Precautionary Statements: How do I use this disinfectant safely? Do I need PPE?

First Aid: What should I do if I get the disinfectant in my eyes or mouth, on my skin, or if I breathe it in?

Storage & Disposal: How should the disinfectant be stored? How should I dispose of expired disinfectant? What should I do with the container?

Label Content:

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:
Alkyl (80% C14, 30% C16, 5% C12, 5% C18) _____ 10.0%
Dimethyl Benzyl Ammonium Chloride _____ 90.0%
OTHER INGREDIENTS: _____ 100.0%
TOTAL: _____ 100.0%

EPA REG NO. 55555-55-55555

CAUTION

Directions for Use

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:
It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

For Disinfection of Healthcare Organisms:
Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa.

To Disinfect Hard, Nonporous Surfaces:
Pre-wash surface. Mop or wipe with disinfectant solution. Allow solution to stay wet on surface for at least 10 minutes. Rinse well and air dry.

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS:
Hazardous to humans and domestic animals. Wear gloves and eye protection.

CAUSES MODERATE EYE IRRITATION. Avoid contact with eyes, skin or clothing. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling. Avoid contact with foods.

FIRST AID: IF IN EYES: Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. **IF ON SKIN OR CLOTHING:** Take off contaminated clothing. Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes.

POISON CONTROL: Call a Poison Control Center (1-866-368-5048) or doctor for treatment advice.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL: Store this product in a cool, dry area away from direct sunlight and heat. When not in use keep center cap of lid closed to prevent moisture loss. Nonrefillable container. Do not reuse or refill this container.

EPA 1111-1111-11111

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PROJECT FIRSTLINE

EPA
United States Environmental Protection Agency

WWW.CDC.GOV/PROJECTFIRSTLINE

<https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/HowToReadALabel-Infographic-508.pdf>

Dental Unit Waterlines (DUWLs)

- **Risks**

- Germs can live in waterlines
- Biofilm formation

- **Control Strategies**

- Flushing lines
- Test, treat and shock DUWL according to manufacturer's instructions to meet EPA standards for drinking water (≤ 500 CFU/mL heterotrophic bacteria)



[ADA: CDC health alert highlights importance of maintaining, monitoring safe dental waterlines | American Dental Association](#)

Post-Exposure Management

Steps After Occupational Exposure

- Wash exposed area immediately
- Report incident to supervisor
- Document and follow institutional protocol



<https://www.cdc.gov/dental-infection-control/hcp/safe-care-training-modules/index.html>

Other Considerations



<https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/Respiratory-Actions-508.pdf>

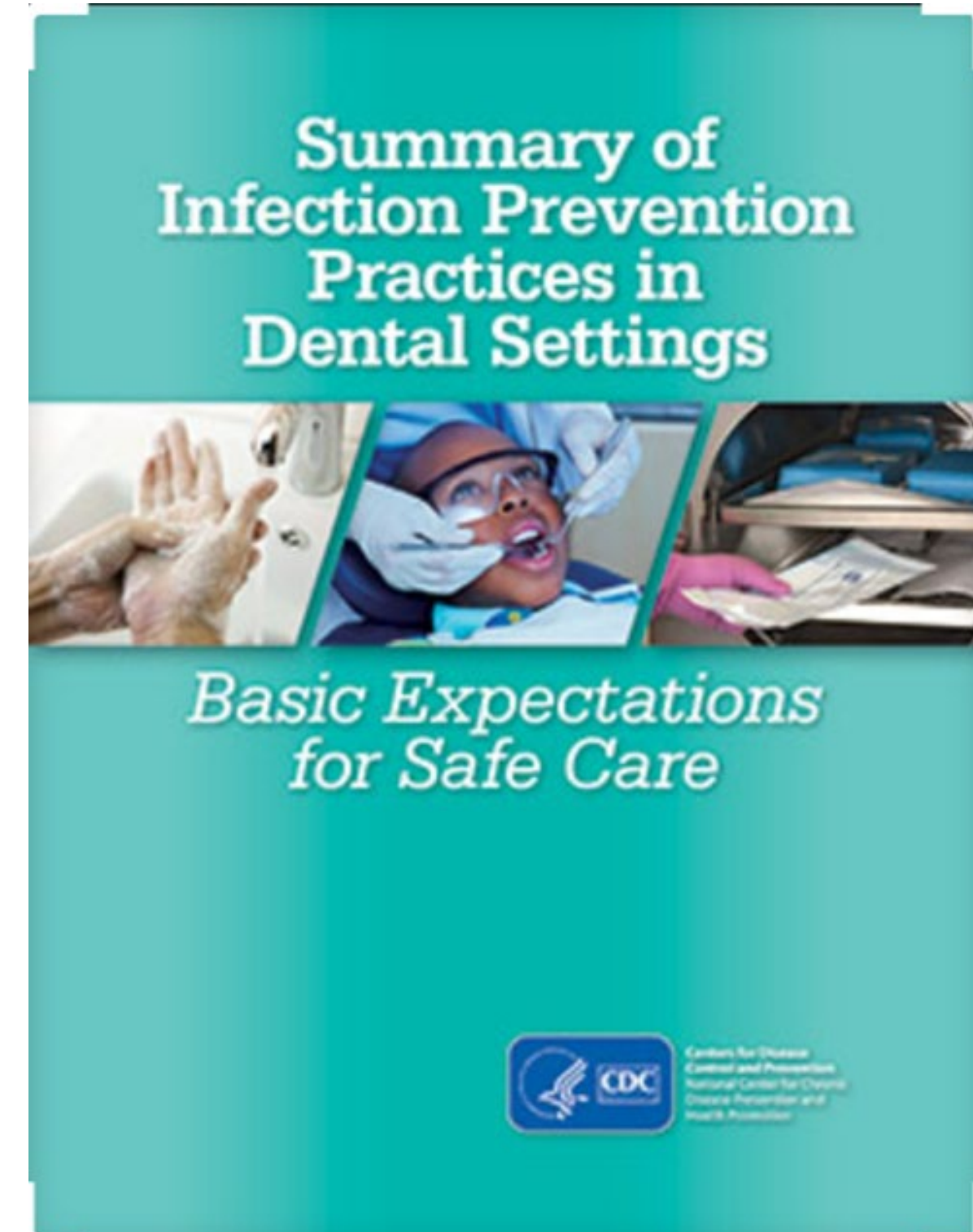
During increased risk of spread (e.g., influenza, COVID-19)

- Enhanced screening
- Physical distancing in waiting rooms
- Vaccination encouragement

Summary & Takeaways

Core Themes

- Standard precautions protect everyone
- Consistent application of IPC practices to prevent the spread of germs
- Stay updated with CDC recommendations



[Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care | Dental Infection Prevention and Control | CDC](#)

References

- **CDC – Dental Infection Control for Health care Personnel (HCP)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/dental-infection-control/hcp/index.html>

- **CDC – Summary of Dental Infection Control Practices**

<https://www.cdc.gov/dental-infection-control/hcp/summary/index.html>

- **ICAP Nebraska Medicine – Dental Facility Resources**

<https://icap.nebraskamed.com/facilities/dental/facility-resources/>

THANK YOU

Project Firstline Louisiana

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Well-Ahead Louisiana | Louisiana Department of Health

Contact us: WellAhead@la.gov

Please also feel free to visit the Well-Ahead website at:

<http://wellaheadla.com>

