

# DENTAL PRACTICE HIBERNATION PLAN

**While we await the return to our practices, there are two important areas that may require attention. At first glance, these areas may seem unrelated, yet they are very interwoven.**

## Clinical Areas

Six key clinical areas to monitor and/or maintain during times of extended closure:

- Dental Unit Waterlines: both Sterisil and Crosstex have specific advisories and directions for office closures. See additional attachments.
- Clean sterilizers and drain water; likewise for the ultrasonic unit.
- Clean all vacuum lines and solids collectors.
- Ensure that all other devices and equipment are turned off and unplugged, if possible. For example, prophylaxis jets/scalers, X-ray machines, panorex/cone beam and other equipment you may not normally turn off over the weekend.
- Every few days during closure: turn on the sink faucet at the plaster trap for a few minutes to keep it from drying out; flush the eyewash station for a few minutes; turn on the vacuum and compressor, run warm water through the lines, and leave running for 15 minutes.
- Talk to your IT computer network advisor computers & peripherals should also be turned off.

## Professional Development

Take advantage of any downtime to add to your skill sets, knowledge base, and your credentials. Doing so enables you to be better prepared going forward.

- Visit the ADA, CDC, and OSAP websites to increase your knowledge of COVID-19 and new compliance developments. Links are provided below.
- Identify opportunities to learn more about your clinical and sterilizer equipment. Many times, offices purchase new equipment, but don't use it to its fullest capacity. Do you have the Manufacturer's Instructions for Use available to review? (Most manufacturers offer pdf downloads of user manuals.) And they may offer free online training.
- Read/update your compliance policies—OSHA and HIPAA. Does your office have a set of infection control policies and procedures? If not, begin working on that now.
- Join OSAP so you can network online and receive weekly patient safety and infection control information.
- Learn how to create an emergency response plan.
- Organize and update your SDS manual and chemical list for the year.

## Resources

- [American Dental Association COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Resources for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Organization for Safety and Asepsis and Prevention \(OSAP\) COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Optimal Dental Team](#)
- [Institute for Dental Compliance and Risk Management](#)