

Policy on Bloodborne Pathogens

All services performed at the dental hygiene clinic are provided by dental hygiene students under the direct supervision of dental hygienists and/or supervising dentists. Procedures are performed under aseptic conditions which meet or exceed Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) infection control standards, universal precautions of the Center for Disease Control of the United States Government (CDC)¹, as well as the Dental Board of California's recommended infection control guidelines for dental offices.² According to these organizations, along with the American Dental Association (ADA), epidemiology studies indicate "that there is no significant risk of contracting bloodborne diseases through the provision of dental treatment when appropriate infection control procedures are followed."³ Patients with bloodborne infectious diseases and/or any other infectious disease are treated in a safe and professional manner by our students, staff and faculty. Confidentiality of information pertaining to the health status of each individual is strictly maintained. SJVC uses the CDC and OSHA guidelines for prevention and management of exposure to infectious disease.

1. http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faq/bloodborne_exposures.htm
2. http://dbc.ca.gov/lawsregs/regulations/ch1_article1.shtml - §1005
3. <https://www.ada.org/1851.aspx>

Commitment to our Patients:

- **Standard Precautions:** All patients are treated with standard precautions, reducing the risk of disease transmission. Contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials is minimized by proper infection control of dental unit preparation, during treatment provision and the unit breakdown.
- **Patient Disclosure:** Patients are expected to provide accurate medical information in order to reduce risk of potential complications to dental treatment.
- **Prevention:** Students are tested and immunized against hepatitis B and other bloodborne diseases to protect themselves and their patients from possible pathogen exposure.
- **Exposure:** Students and patients involved in an exposure incident during treatment (i.e., a student accidentally exposed to a sharp instrument), at the expense of SJVC, are referred for medical screening and counseling as indicated within 24 hours.
- **Confidentiality:** Patients with bloodborne pathogen diseases are treated in a compassionate, confidential manner. The same guidelines are applied to accept a patient into student care or refer a patient for care, based on medical and dental needs of each patient.

Commitment to our Students:

- **Applicants:** Prospective students are advised that health examinations and blood screenings will be conducted upon acceptance into the program. Laboratory results will state any need for immunizations and will be initiated prior to patient care. Applicants with known bloodborne pathogen diseases should seek medical and career counseling to determine whether it will be appropriate to provide patient care without posing a risk to fellow students, faculty and patients.
- **Education:** Students are educated and trained on infection control procedures, located in the SJVC Dental Hygiene Clinic Manual, that reduce the transmission of bloodborne pathogen diseases. Students are expected to adhere to these guidelines at all times. Serious infractions posing a risk to students, faculty or patients are grounds for dismissal from the program.
- **Exposure:** Students are to notify faculty immediately upon a bloodborne exposure incident. At the expense of SJVC, the student and their patient will be referred for a medical exam and blood screening upon the determination of supervising faculty. Students monitoring will follow most recent CDC guidelines. Should the student contract a disease that may pose a risk to patient care, consultation with a medical doctor will be sought and appropriate guidance will be considered.
- **Confidentiality:** Student medical status is treated in a confidential manner.