

AEROSOL CONTAMINATION IN THE SURGERY

Without appropriate protection of the face it is a 'portal of entry for microbes'. Exposure to: Blood, saliva, nasopharyngeal secretions, tooth components, calculus, plaque, and restorative material will happen during dental treatment. Chest, shoulders, face and lower arms are the areas that can become most contaminated during aerosol procedures.



Remember: clinical areas should be clutter free. Drinks/ food should not be consumed in the surgery.

Pathogenic microbes on uniforms can transmit to other environments. HBV- can live in the environment for up to 7 days and oral/ respiratory Bacteria for up to 3 days.

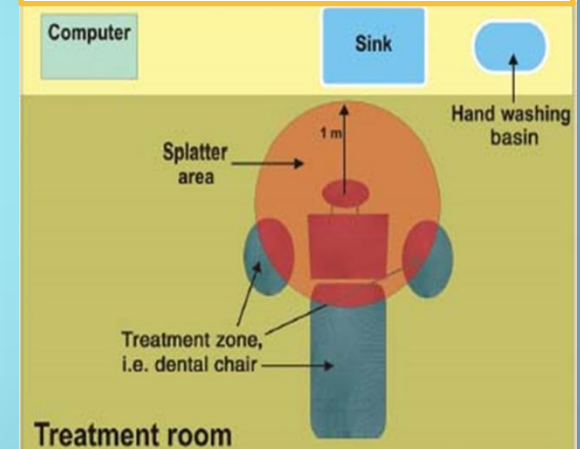


Instruments should be enclosed & stored as far away as possible from the dental chair (HTM 01 05). Dental products should be kept in their original packaging until point of use to avoid any unnecessary contamination from aerosols.

During treatment:

- Wear appropriate PPE for aerosol generated procedures.
- PPE should include **gloves, apron, mask & goggles or visor.**
- Touching anything other than essential items with gloved hands/ hands should be avoided
- A good posture for working should be maintained to minimise facial contamination from the patients mouth.
- High volume suction should be used to reduce aerosol generation

Below is the area in the surgery that becomes mostly contaminated following aerosol generation



Research has found that aerosols 'may stay in the dental surgery for as long as 30 minutes'. *Rosaline James et al, Dental Aerosol: A silent Hazard in Dentistry, November 2016*

Please contact Karen Jones or a member of the Infection Control Team on 01744 457314/ 457312 if you require any additional advice/support.