VACCINES AND HEALTH CARE

During the summer of 2014, The Ohio State University made headlines for a large mumps outbreak that occurred in the Central Ohio area and had a connection to the campus. To this day, 484 mumps cases have been reported with 255 of them being linked to OSU. This outbreak raised many questions about the importance of vaccinations not only in the general population, but also with healthcare professionals.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highly recommend that all healthcare professionals receive vaccines for Hepatitis B, influenza, MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), and varicella. Healthcare professionals are at risk for acquiring or transmitting these viruses.

Hepatitis B (HBV) can be spread through breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes via exposure to infectious blood or bodily fluids. The hepB vaccine was first introduced in 1981, was recommended for children in 1991, and by 2009 the rate of new infections had decreased by 84%. In 1991, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) passed a Federal Standard stating that all healthcare employers must provide the vaccine at no charge to employees.

Healthcare professionals, have a responsibility to ensure that patient health and safety is a top priority. Reviewing medical records and visiting a primary care physician to obtain any missing or outdated vaccinations demonstrates this commitment to patient well-being.

For more information about the recommended vaccinations for healthcare professionals, please visit:


FREQUENCY OF BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

The CDC has several guidelines regarding the frequency of sterilizer monitoring and by which means the monitoring should take place. The CDC states that a chemical indicator, both internal and external, should be included in every sterilization cycle. The most common chemical indicators are autoclave tape and the indicators found on sterilization pouches.
After Address Phone Contact

The Responsible Compliance Prevention Educators Coordinators

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CONTROL BOOT CAMP

sterilization three A repairs placed the technician sterilizer consecutive

When CDC, before the sterilizer can be placed back into use, a spore test must be run on three consecutive, empty chamber cycles. Testing the sterilizer three times ensures that all repairs were completed properly and all sterilizer settings are correct.

• After Any Routine Repair Has Been Completed

A spore strip test should be run on three consecutive empty chamber sterilization cycles after repair or preventative maintenance is completed. In the event that a spore strip test does not pass, contact a qualified service technician.

• After the Sterilizer Has Been Relocated

There are times when it may be necessary to change where the sterilizer is located in the instrument processing area. After all moves have taken place, spore strips should be run on three consecutive empty chamber cycles and submitted to the SMS laboratory for testing. If a sterilizer is not level, the chamber may not fill properly, which could potentially prevent instruments from being sterilized. These additional steps will ensure that the sterilizer continues to work at peak efficiency at all times.

ONE ADDITIONAL TEST:

In addition, the CDC states that an additional spore strip test should be run in the following situations:

• The addition of a new sterilizer
• Training of new sterilization personnel
• The use of a new type of packaging material or tray
• After any change in sterilizer loading procedures
• During any implantable device load

For more information please visit:

http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faq/sterilization_monitoring.htm

SMS Account Records

Within the next year, SMS will begin to transition to online records, allowing anyone to quickly access test results and print monthly reports immediately. To ensure that this transition goes as smoothly as possible, offices are asked to inform SMS of any changes that may have taken place at the practice. These include changes or updates to:

• Practice Name
• Contact Person
• Address
• Phone Number
• Email Address

The email address provided will be the initial user identification name on the SMS results website. This email address should be for the entire practice, and not one specific staff member (for example: info@practicename.com). This will allow for staff members to access all of the features of the website.

If a change needs to be made, please contact the SMS office by phone (toll-free 888-476-7678) or email (smsosu@osu.edu) and one of our team members will be happy to assist you.

OSAP 2015 INFECTION CONTROL BOOT CAMP

Join national and international experts in infection prevention and patient safety at this three day, fast-paced, comprehensive event! This course is targeted to infection control coordinators in busy dental practices, educators responsible for infection prevention and safety instruction, compliance officers, federal service employees, and anyone who is responsible for infection control.

When: January 12-14, 2015
Where: Hyatt Regency-Atlanta, Georgia
Cost: Members-$350, Nonmembers-$525
(Additional charges may apply after 12/19/14)

Space is limited, so register early!

For more information please visit:
http://www.osap.org/?page=2015BootCamp

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