



**Commonwealth Dental Association**  
*Working for Oral Health in the Commonwealth*

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**CDA Policy Statement on Infection Control**  
**adopted following a workshop held in conjunction with the**  
**CDA Triennial General Meeting in Singapore**  
**5<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

The Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) recognises that effective infection control in rural dental practices – especially in resource limited communities – is challenging.

However, the need for effective infection control cannot be ignored or downplayed, especially with the ongoing threat of the spread of highly infectious or easily communicable diseases, such as Hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS and outbreaks of pandemic influenza from time to time.

It is important for health authorities, working in partnerships with interested NGOs, to develop effective strategies to improve infection control measures. These strategies should encompass the protection of patients and also that of the dental health care workers (or providers)

The CDA is committed to offering its expertise in these matters, through its partner national dental associations, to improve the standard of infection control across the Commonwealth, especially in resource limited countries.

Recognizing the significance of infection control in maintaining optimal oral health care, the Association highlights the need for action at several levels.

**CDA calls on:**

**A. National Governments to:**

- Formulate policy guidelines detailing minimum standards of infection control to be implemented in all health facilities, be they state-run or private clinics. In doing so, the help and advice of the dental profession, and - where appropriate - relevant medical personnel, should be sought.
- Ensure that infection control forms an important component in curricula of oral health workers' training institutions

- Ensure that there is regular training for all workers on most modern methods of infection control
- Provide resources to support effective measures of infection control at all levels and also for appropriate training of all health care personnel
- Ensure that infection control features in national health campaigns, to raise awareness of the issues amongst the general public, which will empower patients with knowledge and the need for information and control
- Engage with manufacturers of dental equipment to address the issue of the current high technology and the need to ensure that their equipment can be used in a rural setting.

**B. National Dental Associations to:**

- Include infection control as part of their publicity platforms
- Work in partnership with the industry to improve awareness of and the standards of infection control
- Seek to create a central resource which can be adapted for local use
- Take steps to use any WHO or other recognised body's Glossary of Terms, so that everyone concerned with infection control "speaks the same language" relation to these matters.

**C. Dental Practices/Clinics to:**

- Display posters showing what patients can expect by way of infection control
- Appoint a nominated staff member to take on the responsibility for overseeing infection control implementation in the practice, remembering the overall responsibility for ensuring implementation of infection control rests with the dental operator (dentist, therapist, dental technologist, hygienist, prosthetist etc)
- Offer continuing training to all staff on modern methods of infection control
- Educate patients attending for treatment the significance of infection control