COVID 19 PPE Protocols Summary

The most important thing you do when getting ready to see patients is the screening questionnaire which on PEI will virtually assure the person is not positive for Covid 19.

The next is to make sure that you, all your staff and however many patients are in your office at any one time stay 2 meters apart – period – other than when actual treatment is taking place. This is in fact the only criteria placed by CMOH.

People that are positive or with symptoms should not be seen in any dental office on the Island.

All standard Infection Control Procedures and Sterilization Protocols should be followed as usual.

The standard operating PPE for all procedures is a Level 3 surgical mask and face-shield, gloves and a gown with cuffs to the neck. All PPE is presumed to be uninfected or disinfected when donned outside the operatory and to be thought as infected when doffed and treated as such- - either put in a container to be washed, disinfected or disposed of outside the operatory

 That means you cannot enter another operatory with PPE that has been worn. You have to put all new PPE on every time you enter an operatory with another patient. Same with staff. This PPE is worn whether the procedure produces an aerosol or not.

As we get back to more non-emergency and urgent care the next biggest concern is whether

the procedures are AGP or NON- AGP and not that it changes the PPE but for ALL AGP a High Volume Suction tip must be used. The assistant must keep the suction in as close approximation to the source of the aerosol as possible. For procedures where is can be used a well fitting rubber dam must be used and the patient should rinse with 1-1 1/2% H2O2 and the operating area inside the dam rinsed as well.

If no dam is used the high volume suction is again vital to reducing the aerosol and will do so by 95%. This when combined with the other procedures will reduce the infective nature of the aerosol greatly. The settling time in your operatory will depend on the air changes per hour

You should be also concerned about saliva and spread of droplets possibly more so than the aerosol – especially when making impressions or many other intra-oral manipulations that

normally would be considered Non-AGP.

Hygienists must wear the same PPE as the dentists when with a patient and all other standard infection control guidelines followed. NO air water syringe unless the air is disconnected and High volume suction for oral clearance. Hand scalers are preferred but if ultra-sonic cleaning is to be done – an assistant using a high volume suction, fitted with the same PPE’s would be required. No polishing procedures with a prophy angle and cup.