



IPC Standard Highlights

- October 2022

The references below are highlighted to inform members of the change in language from “**should**” to “**must**.” This standard is a formal requirement established by the Saskatchewan Oral Health Profession (SOHP), and approved by the SDHA Council. SDHA members **must** comply with this Standard.

In areas where language includes “**should**” or “**recommends**,” members should interpret this as a guideline that is generally recommended by the Council of the SDHA as part of providing quality oral health care.

References from “**should**” to “**must**”

- **IPC-02-09:** Hand Hygiene
- **IPC-03-03:** Masks
- **IPC-03-04:** Protective Eyewear
- **IPC-04-02:** Processing Critical Items
- **IPC-04-04:** Monitoring Sterilization
- **IPC-05-02:** Clinical Contact Surfaces
- **IPC-06-03:** Dental Radiology
- **IPC-06-11:** Patients Infected with M. Tuberculosis

The references below are highlighted because they reflect significant change or additional information from the previous Standard.

- **IPC-02-01:** General Considerations: Oral Health Care Facilities **must** be aware of and follow the Saskatchewan Health Authority emergency protocols for infectious diseases.
- **IPC-02-03:** Immunizations: It is **recommended** that all SOHCP evaluate their immunization status and complete the **recommended** vaccinations and boosters as necessary. **Recommended** immunizations now include SARS-COV2.
- **IPC-03-06:** Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette: Patients **should** wear a mask if displaying symptoms of respiratory infection.
- **IPC-06-15:** Pandemic: In the event of a Pandemic, SOHP and other personnel **must** follow the implemented interim IPC protocols.

- **IPC-04-04** Monitoring Sterilization:
 - o Each sterilization cycle **must** include a class 5 Chemical Integrating Indicator in a process challenge device (PCD). The load **must** not be released for use until the Class 5 Chemical Integrating Indicator has been verified, OR each sterilization package **must** contain a Class 5 Chemical Indicator.
 - o A PCD is a test used to assess the performance of the sterilization process. The results **must** be verified and recorded at the end of the sterilization cycle. A PCD may be commercially manufactured or created in-house.
 - o An in-office biological indicator test **must** be completed every day for each sterilizer in a PCD.
 - o In the event of a positive in-house and non-U of S biological monitoring service, all SOHP members **must** follow their regulatory body reporting protocols. If this responsibility is determined to be that of the SDHA member, please contact the SDHA directly.
 - o For pre-vacuum Sterilizers: Air Removal Test (Bowie-Dick) Test: this method of monitoring a sterilizer was not included in the previous IPC document, but has since been added. This shall be performed at the beginning of each day the sterilizer is used.
- **IPC-03-04** - Protective Eyewear:
 - o SOHCP **must** wear protective eyewear. Protective eyewear for patients **must** be used. Protective eyewear for patients **must** be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate level disinfectant between patients.
- **IPC-05-02:** Clinical Contact Surfaces
 - o The spray-wipe-spray surface cleaning and disinfection method is no longer recommended.
- **IPC-02-09** – Hand Hygiene:
 - o Dermal piercings **should** be avoided on hands and wrists, as they compromise hand hygiene, making donning gloves difficult, and can increase the chance of tearing gloves. Dermal piercings are defined as a single point piercing with no separate exit and entry point, where the jewelry is anchored beneath the skin.

We would like to acknowledge SDHA member Tanya Springinatic for her contributions in the development of this Standard on the SOHP IPC Committee.