

# STERILIZATION MONITORING

## *to do list*

### **Educate the Staff**

Make certain that your entire office staff understands the importance of weekly testing, and that weekly testing is mandated by many states including Ohio.

### **Assign One Person**

Assign one dependable staff member to take responsibility for weekly testing. The dentist should periodically review the testing records with this staff person to ensure weekly testing is taking place, and that all testing documentation is in order.

### **Establish a Routine & Use a Testing Calendar**

Plan to test each piece of sterilization equipment on the same day of the week, each week of the month. Pick a testing day early in the week (Monday or Tuesday), in case the assigned staff member is absent, and the normal testing day is missed. Use a calendar to keep track of weekly test dates. Indicate on the calendar the date of testing, who performed the spore test and the mail date. Also indicate on the calendar a reminder of when to re-order spore tests and chemical indicator strips.

### **Use Chemical Indicator Strips**

For each sterilizer cycle, use a chemical indicator strip as a quick visual to determine if the minimum temperature was reached for sterilization.

### **Mail Tests Promptly**

Always mail tests on the same day the equipment was tested.

### **Maintain a Failure Log**

Keep a log of all test failures and document the remedial action taken.

### **Review Reports**

It is the responsibility of the dentist to review each monthly report. If there are any discrepancies between the number of tests submitted and the number of tests processed, contact your monitoring service promptly.

### **Review Problems**

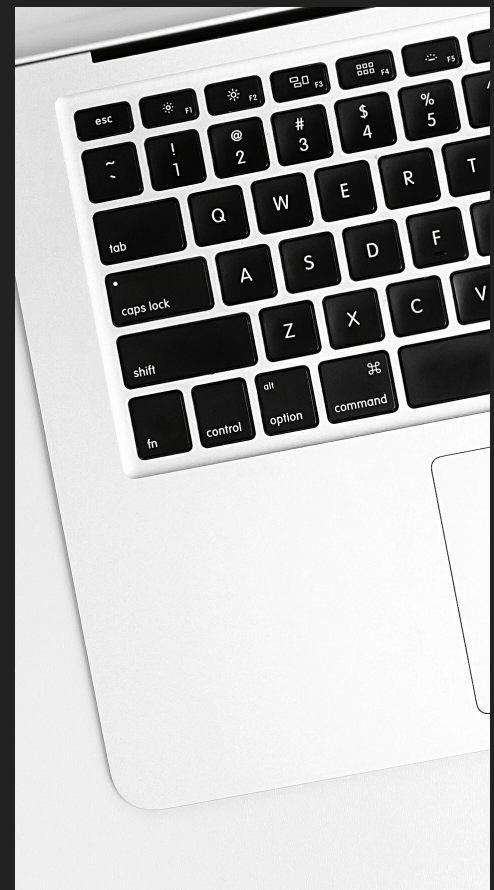
It is the responsibility of the dentist to periodically meet with the staff person assigned to testing in order to review failures, equipment problems and staff education.

### **Report to Staff**

Request that the staff person assigned to perform the weekly testing report on failures and the monitoring of equipment at scheduled staff meetings.

### **File & Retain Reports**

Keep all sterilization monitoring monthly reports in one accessible file. Records requirements vary by state. In Ohio, if the office is inspected --- all pertinent information must be on the premises. In Ohio, all biological monitoring reports must be retained for at least 2 years.



## *resources*

additional resources  
available upon request

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Dept of Health and Human Services; October 2016.

Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html>

Sterilization: Monitoring I FAQs I Infection Control I Division of Oral Health <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/monitoring.html>

Strange, M. Chemical Indicators: a must for proper sterilization. RDH Magazine. <https://www.rdhmag.com/infection-control/article/14196612/chemical-indicators-a-must-for-proper-sterilization>

OSDB Infection Control Manual (2016) <https://dental.ohio.gov/Enforcement/Infection-Control#728170-infection-control-manual>

Rule 4715-20-02 I Sterilization and disinfection. Ohio Administrative Code [Chapter 4715-20 - Ohio Administrative Code I Ohio Laws](#)