

Y1S2 DOH133—ORAL MICROBIOLOGY

PRINCIPLES OF INFECTION CONTROL IN DENTAL PRACTICE

CROSS-INFECTION

- Transmission of infectious agents between staff & patients within a clinical environment
- Person-person or via contaminated objects (fomites) transmission
- Infection-transmitting organisms derived from:
 - Other human sources
 - Animal sources
 - Inanimate sources

PRINCIPLES OF INFECTION TRANSMISSION

- Person-person transmission requires:
 - Source of infection
 - Mode or vehicle of infection
 - Route of infection
- “Index case”: person with source of infection
- Modes of infection: blood, saliva, instruments with these residues, etc.
- Routes of acquiring: ingestion, inhalation, etc.

DENTISTRY

- Source of infection mainly human
 - People with overt infections (acute, liberal, unlikely)
 - Prodromal stage:
 - Incubating stage
 - Multiplication of organism occurs
 - No overt signs of infection
 - Highly infectious
 - E.g. viral infections—chicken pox, measles, etc.
 - Healthy carriers
 - Convalescent (Hep B)
 - Suffer from illness but recover