Guidelines for Reprocessing Dental Curing Lights

This document contains information from our parent company 3M US in regards to the US-based Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations in dental settings for medical devices that come in contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin, which include all dental curing light guides. You should always follow your provincial guidelines.

The 3M™ Elipar™ DeepCure-S LED Curing Light and the 3M™ Paradigm™ DeepCure LED Curing Light meet the CDC recommendations in the US for sterilization, high level disinfection or barrier with intermediate-level disinfection as outlined below.

### 3M Curing Lights* Non-removable Light Guide** Criticality/Reprocessing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Validation Status</th>
<th>Criticality</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Validated</td>
<td>All semi-critical items should be sterilized using heat, including curing light guides.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validated</td>
<td>If a semi-critical item is heat-sensitive, replace with a heat-tolerant alternative. If none available, process using high-level disinfection.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validated</td>
<td>Feasible</td>
<td>If the item cannot tolerate heat or high-level disinfection, at a minimum, protect with an appropriate barrier. Disinfect with a hard surface disinfectant with intermediate-level activity between patients.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Example: 3M™ Elipar™ DeepCure-S LED Curing Light / 3M™ Paradigm™ DeepCure LED Curing Light.
** Example: Valo Grand Cordless.

---

### Instructions for Cleaning and Disinfection of a Curing Light Shield and Curing Light Handpiece

**Cleaning:** Wipe thoroughly with CaviWipes™, or equivalent wipe, for 30 seconds or until visibly clean, according to manufacturer instructions.

**Disinfection:** Disinfect with an alcohol-quaternary ammonium wipe, such as CaviWipes™ for the contact time on the disinfectant label.

### Cleaning Options for Curing Light Guides

**Option A:** Wipe thoroughly with CaviWipes™, or equivalent wipe, for 30 seconds or until visibly clean, according to manufacturer instructions.

**Option B:** Manually clean by submerging in an enzymatic detergent for five minutes and scrubbing with a soft plastic brush until visibly clean. Rinse in purified water according to detergent instructions.

**Option C:** Washer-disinfector with an enzymatic detergent and a minimum of five minutes at 95°C thermal rinse cycle.

### Disinfection or Sterilization Options for Removable Curing Light Guides

**Intermediate-Level Disinfection (only when using a sleeve)**
1. Select cleaning option A or B.
2. Disinfect with an alcohol-quaternary ammonium wipe, such as CaviWipes™ and wipe for the contact time on the disinfectant label.

**High-Level Disinfection**
1. Select cleaning option C with thermal rinse for five minutes at 95°C.

**Sterilization**
1. Select cleaning option A, B or C.
3. Sterilize the curing light guide according to the instructions (below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sterilization</th>
<th>Temp. (°C)</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Dry Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-vacuum</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>30 minutes, or until dry in the autoclave being used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravity</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>121</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of these guidelines?
Based on CDC guidelines, 3M has compiled the US validated options for its curing lights in order to support and assist our customers in helping to protect staff and patients from the risk of infection.

What is a semi-critical device?
A device that contacts intact mucous membranes or non-intact skin.

What is a non-critical device?
A device that contacts only intact skin or does not directly contact the patient but may become contaminated with microorganisms and organic soil during patient care.

What is cleaning?
Removal of contamination (usually organic or inorganic soil) from an item to the extent necessary for further processing.

What is intermediate level disinfection?
A process that kills viruses, mycobacteria, fungi, and vegetative bacteria, but not necessarily bacterial spores.

What is high level disinfection?
A process that kills all microbial organisms but not necessarily large numbers of bacterial spores.

What is sterilization?
A validation process used to render a product free from all viable microorganisms.

What is gravity sterilization?
Type of sterilization cycle in which incoming steam displaces residual air through a port or drain usually in or near the bottom of the sterilization chamber.

What is dynamic air removal sterilization?
Type of sterilization cycles in which air is removed from the chamber and the load by means of a series of pressure and vacuum excursions (pre-vacuum cycle) or by means of a series of steam flushes and pressure pulses above atmospheric pressure (steam flush pressure pulse (SFPP) cycle).

What happens if the sleeve is damaged during use?
If the sleeve is damaged or has a hole, the curing light guide should be high-level disinfected or sterilized.

Can the sleeve impact the power or irradiance of a curing light?
Yes, the sleeve can impact the power and irradiance of a curing light. It is critical to ensure the sleeve is powder-free and the seam is not over the tip of the light guide and that the sleeve fits well. Finger cots should never be used for a barrier sleeve. We have tested the following sleeves:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sleeve</th>
<th>Impacts Power or Irradiance of 3M Curing Lights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cure Sleeve® Tip Covers (short) – Kerr</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Curing Light Sleeves-Demi – Kerr</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIDIShield™ Custom Fit Curing Light Sleeves – TIDI Products</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SmartLite® Max Lens Cover Sleeve – Dentsply</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curelastic™ Cure-Light Sleeve (Steri-Shield)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Customer Care Centre: 1-888-363-3685 | 3M.ca/Dental

3M Canada
3M Oral Care
300 Tartan Drive
London, ON N5V 4M9
Canada
1-888-363-3685

3M ESPE Dental Products
2510 Conway Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55144
USA
1-800-634-2249

3M, 3M Science. Applied to Life. Elipar, Paradigm, CaviWipes and ESPE are trademarks of 3M or 3M Deutschland GmbH. Used under license in Canada. © 2020, 3M. All rights reserved. All other trade names referenced are the service marks, trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. 2004-17257 E