

## **In the Workplace . . . Keep Yourself Safe and Protected**

### *Do You Know Your Rights as an Employee?*

- Are you protecting yourself from your work environment?
- Is your workplace making you sick or potentially causing you harm?
- Did you know that improper practice of infection control protocols and procedures could be harming **you** and **your body**?
- Did you know that you are possibly exposing yourself to chemicals, germs and other potentially infectious materials?
- Do you feel protected?
- Do you feel safe?
- Do you feel you have been properly trained in accordance with the current OSHA standard?

CDAAs have been hearing more and more stories from assistants about safety and infection control practices that are not in line with the current standard as well as other things happening in their offices that are making them feel unsafe – and they don't know what to do. Some of the things we have heard include: 'there's not enough PPE', 'we're reusing PPE', 'no one uses utility gloves when handling contaminated instruments', 'I got stuck with a dirty instrument' and 'we do it this way, not how they taught us in school'. Is that true for you, a coworker, or someone you know?

We care about you and your health! Did you know that there are resources for you and rights that you have as an **employee** in the dental office. We are beginning to work on some continuing education courses that will provide the information you need to be fully protected. So, watch for information about this up-and-coming training!

In the meantime, the Cal/OSHA website has tons of information for you to access at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/>. The CA Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973 gives workers the right to file a complaint about workplace safety and health hazards – AND the name of any person who submits a complaint to Cal/OSHA *must be kept confidential by law*, unless the person requests otherwise. This is where to file a complaint: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/complaint.htm>