Some used musical instruments harbor harmful bacteria, fungi

Research has shown that playing a musical instrument can help nourish, cultivate and increase intelligence in children, but playing a used instrument can also pose a potentially dangerous health risk, according to the Academy of General Dentistry.

Used woodwind and brass instruments were found to be heavily contaminated with a variety of bacteria and fungi. Many of the contaminants found on the instruments are associated with minor to serious infectious and allergic diseases, according to a study published in the March/April 2011 issue of General Dentistry, the peer-reviewed clinical journal of the AGD.

"Many children participate in their school’s band ensemble and often the instruments they play are on loan," said R. Thomas Glass, DDS, PhD, lead author of the study. "Most of these instruments have been played by other students, and without the proper sanitation, bacteria and fungi can thrive for weeks and even months after the last use."

A total of 117 different sites, including the mouthpieces, internal chambers and cases, were tested on 13 previously played instruments of a high school band. Six of the instruments had been played within a week of testing, while seven hadn’t been touched in about one month. The instruments produced 442 different bacteria, many of which were species of Staphylococcus, which can cause staph infections. Additionally, 58 molds and 19 yeasts were identified.

"Parents may not realize that the mold in their child’s instrument could contribute to the development of asthma," said Glass.

Additionally, the yeasts on the instruments commonly cause skin infections around the mouth and lips ("red lips").

Leo E. Rouse installed as ADEA president

Leo E. Rouse, DDS, was installed as the first African-American president of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) at the 2011 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition in San Diego in March. Rouse’s extensive background in leadership and dedication to service will guide the association over his yearlong presidential term.

"Leo’s commitment to service in the field of dentistry and dental education will be invaluable, not only to the association, but to all of academic dentistry. I look forward to seeing the direction he will give our community," said outgoing ADEA President Sandra C. Andrieu, MEd, PhD.

Rouse will host the 2012 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition, which
Rouse holds a DDS degree from the Howard University College of Dentistry. In 1997, he received the Howard University College of Dentistry Alumni Achievement Award for distinguished service to the country and the profession of dentistry.

Glickman voted ADEA president-elect
Gerald Glickman, DDS, MS, MBA, JD, was installed as ADEA president-elect. He will spend a year as ADEA president-elect and become ADEA president at the conclusion of the 2012 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition in Orlando, Fla., March 17–21.

“In his 25 years of service to ADEA, Dr. Glickman has been an actively engaged volunteer leader,” said Andrieu. “I was proud to serve with him and look forward to seeing the association grow under his leadership.”

Glickman will focus his term as ADEA president on fostering lifelong learning. He aspires to give ADEA members the tools for self-direction and self-reflection.

An educator committed to bettering the future of academic dentistry, Glickman is a founding member of the ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education (ADEA CCII), which promotes innovative curricula to educate efficient and effective health-care team practitioners. He has chaired and served as councilor for the ADEA Section on Endodontics and the ADEA Section on Graduate and Postgraduate Education. He was elected ADEA vice president for sections, a position he held from 2002 to 2005.

Glickman is currently professor and chair of the Department of Endodontics and director of graduate endodontics at Baylor College of Dentistry. He holds a MS in microbiology from the University of Kentucky and earned his DDS from Ohio State University. He was awarded a GPR certificate from the University of Florida and a certificate and MS in endodontics from Northwestern University. Glickman also holds a MBA from Southern Methodist University and a JD from Texas Wesleyan University.

About the ADEA
The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is the voice of dental education. Its members include all U.S. and Canadian dental schools and many allied and postdoctoral dental education programs, corporations, faculty and students.

The mission of the ADEA is to lead individuals and institutions of the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research and the delivery of oral health care for the health of the public.

The ADEA’s activities encompass a wide range of research, advocacy, faculty development, meetings and communications such as the esteemed Journal of Dental Education, as well as the dental school admissions services AADSAS, PASS and CAAPID.