ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PRINCIPLES FOR COVID-19

Routine of Environmental Cleaning

Cleaning is an essential part of disinfection. Organic matter can inactivate many disinfectants. Cleaning reduces the soil load, allowing the disinfectant to work.

- **Removal of germs such as the virus that causes COVID-19 requires thorough cleaning followed by disinfection.**
- **The length of time that SARS-COV-2 (the cause of COVID-19) survives on inanimate surfaces will vary depending on factors such as the amount of contaminated body fluid – such as respiratory droplets – present and environmental temperature and humidity. In general, coronaviruses are unlikely to survive for long once droplets produced by coughing or sneezing dry out.**

It is good practice to routinely clean surfaces as follows:

- **Clean frequently touched surfaces with detergent solution (see diagram below).**
- **Clean general surfaces and fittings when visibly soiled and immediately after any spillage.**

Routine of Environmental Cleaning

Frequently Touched Surfaces	Minimally Touched Surfaces
Door handles, bedrails, tabletops, light switches	*Floors, ceilings, walls, blinds*
Should be cleaned frequently. Detergent solution (as per manufacturer's instructions) can be used, with the exact choice of detergent determined by the nature of surface and likely degree of contamination. Detergent-impregnated wipes may be used but should not be used as a replacement for the mechanical cleaning process.	Detergent solution/wipes (as per manufacturer's instructions) are adequate for cleaning general surfaces and nonpatient care areas. Damp mopping is preferable to dry mopping. Walls and blinds should be cleaned when visibly dusty or soiled. Window curtains should be regularly changed in addition to being cleaned when soiled. Sinks and basins should be cleaned on a regular basis.

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Hand Hygiene

Soap and water should be used for hand hygiene when hands are visibly soiled and alcohol-based hand rub at other times (e.g. when hands have been contaminated from contact with environmental surfaces). Cleaning hands also helps to reduce environmental contamination.

Information for Cleaning Staff

The risk when cleaning is not the same as the risk when face to face with a sick person who may be coughing or sneezing.
Cleaning staff should be informed to avoid touching their face, especially their mouth, nose, and eyes when cleaning.
Cleaning staff should wear impermeable disposable gloves and a surgical mask plus eye protection or a face shield while cleaning.
Cleaners should use alcohol-based hand rub before putting on and after removing gloves.
Alcohol-based hand rub should also be used before and after removing the surgical mask and eye protection.
The surgical mask and eye protection act as barriers to people inadvertently touching their face with contaminated hands and fingers, whether gloved or not.
The disinfectant used should be one for which the manufacturer claims antiviral activity, meaning it can kill the virus (such as chlorine-based disinfectants, which are commonly used - see below)
If there is visible contamination with respiratory secretions or other body fluid, the cleaners should wear a full-length disposable gown in addition to the surgical mask, eye protection and gloves o Advice should be sought from your work health and safety consultants on correct procedures for wearing PPE.

Use of disinfection

Use freshly made bleach solution and follow manufacturer's instructions for appropriate dilution and use (see below for dilution instructions).
Wipe the area with bleach solution using disposable paper towels or a disposable cloth.
Dispose of gloves and mask in a leak proof plastic bag.

- Wash hands well using soap and water and dry with disposable paper or single-use cloth towel. If water is unavailable, clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub.

Preparation of disinfectant solution

Gloves should be worn when handling and preparing bleach solutions.
Protective eye wear should be worn in case of splashing.
Bleach solution should be:
made up daily
used mainly on hard, non-porous surfaces (it can damage textiles and metals).
Sufficient time is required to kill the virus, i.e., at least 10 minutes contact time.

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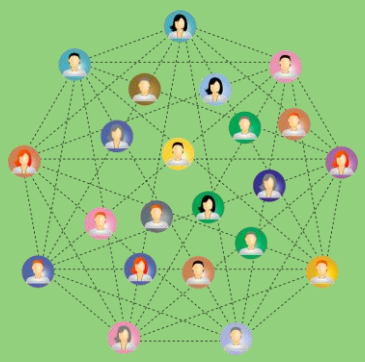

Social Contact Environment

Social contact environments include (but are not limited to), transport vehicles, shopping centres and private businesses.
The risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the social and non-health care work settings can be minimised through a good standard of general hygiene.
This includes:
Promoting cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene.
Routine cleaning of frequently touched hard surfaces with detergent/disinfectant solution/wipe.
Providing adequate alcohol-based hand rub for staff and consumers to use. Alcohol-based hand rub stations should be available, especially in areas where food is on display and frequent touching of produce occurs.
Training staff on use of alcohol-based hand rub.
Consider signs to ask shoppers to only touch what they intend to purchase.
Vehicle air-conditioning should be set to fresh air

Terminal Cleaning

Terminal cleaning is a complete and enhanced cleaning procedure that decontaminates an area following discharge or transfer of a patient with an infectious/communicable disease, sometimes also referred to as an 'infectious clean'.
Terminal cleaning requires both thorough cleaning and disinfection for environmental decontamination.
Cleaning should be followed by or combined with a disinfectant process (see 2-step clean and 2- in-1 step clean below). Ensure room is prepared prior to cleaning, remove medical equipment and patient used items.

- Wear PPE – surgical mask, protective eyewear and gloves
- Change bed screens and curtains (including disposable curtains/screens) that are soiled or contaminated
- Damp dust all surfaces, furniture and fittings
- Clean windows, sills and frames
- Clean all surfaces of bed and mattress
- Mop floor
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene
- Clean all cleaning equipment and return it to the cleaners' room or storage area, discard any waste
- Perform hand hygiene

2-step clean

Physical cleaning with detergent followed by disinfection with a TGA-listed hospital-grade disinfectant with activity against viruses (according to label/product information) or a chlorinebased product such as sodium hypochlorite.

2-in-1 clean

A physical clean using a combined detergent and TGA-listed hospital-grade disinfectant with activity against viruses (according to label/product information) or a chlorine-based product such as sodium hypochlorite, where indicated for use i.e. a combined detergent/disinfectant wipe or solution.

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Terminal Cleaning Flow Chart

Emergency Department /Outpatient Clinics (short Stay areas), Community and primary care assessment areas

Clean frequently touched environment with combined detergent/disinfectant

Patient investigated/ assessed/ confirmed COVID-19

Aerosol Generating Procedure Performed (AGP) OR Gross Environmental Contamination

Terminal Clean

Terminal Clean

Admitted Inpatient Ward Area