

# TOPIC 12: Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection: What is Contact Time?



# Agenda

- Welcome
- What is Contact Time?
- Reflection

# Learning Objectives

- Discuss why it is important to follow the label instructions on a disinfectant product.

# What is contact time?

# INSIDE INFECTION CONTROL

## CLEANING? DISINFECTION? WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

EPISODE 16



# Definition

## **Contact Time**

Sometimes called “dwell time,” this is the amount of time a disinfectant needs to sit on a surface, without being wiped away or disturbed, to effectively kill germs.

# The Disinfectant Label

## •What information do you need from a disinfectant's label?

1. Is the product EPA-approved?
2. On which surfaces can the disinfectant be used?
3. What germs has the disinfectant been proven to kill?
4. Should the product be diluted?
5. What is the contact time?

# Dos and Don'ts for disinfection

- Dos

- **Do follow the listed contact time.** This ensures items are disinfected to keep germs from spreading.

- Don'ts

- **Don't rush** the process. Wait until contact time is complete before using objects or surfaces or before a new patient comes into a room.
- **Don't wipe** the surface to dry it faster.
- **Don't blow** on the surface to dry it faster.



# Disinfectants that kill SARS-CoV-2

EPA's List N is a searchable database that makes it easy to find products that kill SARS-CoV-2

## WHICH DISINFECTANTS KILL COVID-19?

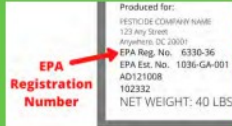
FIND OUT AT [EPA.GOV/LISTNTOOL](https://www.epa.gov/listntool)

EPA expects all products on List N to kill SARS-CoV-2, the specific coronavirus that causes COVID-19

**I already have a product. Does it kill SARS-CoV-2?**

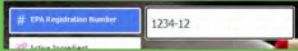
???

Find the EPA Registration Number on the label



Produced for:  
PESTICIDE COMPANY NAME  
123 Any Street  
Anytown, DC 20001  
EPA Reg. No. 6330-36  
EPA Est. No. 1036-GA-001  
ADJ 71508  
102332  
NET WEIGHT: 40 LBS

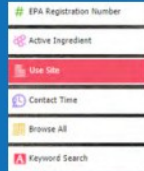
Enter only the first two parts of the Registration Number




If that number is on List N, EPA expects the product to kill SARS-CoV-2 ✓

**I need to find a product to kill SARS-CoV-2.**

Use List N's Search Tool to browse products



Use the first two parts of the EPA registration number when searching for products to purchase



If you need a more advanced search, choose "Export to CSV." Use Excel, Sheets, or Numbers to filter ✓

**Reflection:**  
**What did you learn today?**

# Key Takeaways

- **Disinfectant kills germs** on surfaces or objects.
- **Follow the instructions on the disinfectant label** – especially instructions for contact time.

# Resources and Future Training sessions

## • Project Firstline Resources

Project Firstline on CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/projectfirstline/index.html>

Project Firstline on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CDCProjectFirstline/>

Twitter:

[https://twitter.com/CDC\\_Firstline](https://twitter.com/CDC_Firstline)

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvrp9iOILTQZQGtDnSDGViKDDrRtC13VX>

To sign up for Project Firstline e-mails, click here:

[https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic\\_id=USGDC\\_2104](https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USGDC_2104)

## • Other Resources

CDC's Environmental Cleaning Evaluation Tools:

[https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/prevention\\_tools.html#anchor\\_1561577385](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/prevention_tools.html#anchor_1561577385)

CDC's Reduce Risk from Surfaces:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/environment/surfaces.html>

EPA's Six Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>

EPA's List N Tool:

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm>

About List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19):

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0>

Selected EPA-Registered Disinfectants:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

List N - Infographic Which disinfectants kill COVID-19?:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-12/documents/list\\_n\\_how-to\\_infographic\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-12/documents/list_n_how-to_infographic_final_0.pdf)

# Feedback Form

