

TOPIC 12: Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection



Agenda

- Introductions
- Cleaning and Disinfection: What is the Difference?
- Why Cleaning and Disinfection Matter
- What is Contact Time?
- Reflection

Learning OBJECTIVES

- Describe the difference between cleaning and disinfection.
- Discuss why it is important to follow the label instructions on a disinfectant product.

Introductions

Please introduce yourself with:

- Your name
- Your role (e.g., organization, unit)
- Whether cleaning and disinfection play a big part, or a smaller part, in your work responsibilities

Poll

- Cleaning is killing germs. Disinfecting is removing dirt and some germs.
- Disinfecting is a type of cleaning (cleaning with chemicals).
- Cleaning is a type of disinfecting (disinfecting with soap or detergent).
- Disinfecting is killing germs. Cleaning is removing dirt and some germs.

Cleaning and Disinfection: What is the Difference?

INSIDE INFECTION CONTROL

CLEANING? DISINFECTION? WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

EPISODE 16



Definitions

Cleaning

Cleaning is a process that removes things like dust, dirt, grime, and other spills, smears, and everyday messes from surfaces, along with some germs.

Disinfection

Disinfection is a process that kills germs.

Cleaning and Disinfecting in healthcare

Work Task	Clean	Disinfect

Breakout Groups

- Participants will be split into breakout groups:
 - **Group 1 | Scenario:** You need an item from a shared cart for a sterile procedure.
 - **Group 2 | Scenario:** You have finished examining a patient and are writing notes in the patient record.
 - **Group 3 | Scenario:** You are picking up a patient's tray after lunch.
- Questions for Discussion:
 - Where are the risks for germs to spread?
 - What questions about cleaning and disinfection should we be asking?
 - What actions should we take?

Scenarios: Cleaning and disinfection

Work Task	Clean	Disinfect
Using an item from a shared cart for a sterile procedure		
Writing notes in the patient record after examining the patient		
Picking up a patient's tray after lunch		

Questions and Clarifications?



Why cleaning and disinfection Matter

Patients may have weakened immune systems

In healthcare, we have patients who are ill or weak.

Why does that matter?

Germs are more likely to cause problems in these patients, because their immune defenses may not be the same as someone who is healthy and living at home.

The healthcare environment should be kept clean

It is important to keep the healthcare environment clean to stop germs from spreading.

Where and When?

- Patient rooms
- High-touch surfaces
 - Bed rails
 - Keyboards
 - Light switches
- Surfaces and objects that often have a lot of germs on them
 - Toilet seats

What is contact time?

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?

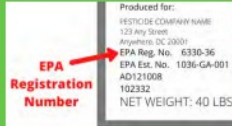
FIND OUT AT [EPA.GOV/LISTNTOOL](https://www.epa.gov/listntool)

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

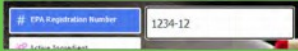
I already have a product. Does it kill SARS-CoV-2?

???

Find the EPA Registration Number on the label



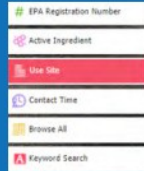
Enter only the first two parts of the Registration Number




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

- **Cleaning removes visible dirt**, dust, spills, smears, and grime, including organic material like blood, as well as some germs, from surfaces. It's important to clean before disinfecting because dirt and grime can make disinfectants not work as well.
- **Disinfecting kill germs** on surfaces or objects.
- It is important to **keep the healthcare environment clean to stop the spread of germs.**
- **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

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvvp9iOILTQZQGtDnSDGVikDdRtC13VX>

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

https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USCDC_2104

• Other Resources

CDC's Environmental Cleaning Evaluation Tools:

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

Feedback Form

