



WORKSHEET IX: ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Facility Disinfection in Detail—For All Staff

The transfer of bacteria and viruses from surfaces to people occurs when people touch an object and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth. In a pandemic, it is possible there will be a shortage of cleaning staff, and available staff may be working outside of their regular hours to lessen their exposure risk. Therefore, *it may become necessary for other staff to assist with cleaning.*

As mentioned on Worksheet V: Infection Control Overview for Pandemic Influenza,

Influenza can survive:

- Up to 48 hours on non-porous surfaces (i.e. bedrails, door knobs, TV remotes, pens)
- Up to 12 hours on porous surfaces (i.e. tissues, cloth, linens)

Some of this information may be strain-specific, so during a pandemic outbreak, it will be necessary to check with the CDC, WHO, and California Department of Public Health for detailed information on environmental cleaning related to the newly circulating influenza virus.

Cleaning Tasks

- Focus on cleaning surfaces/items that are frequently touched by many people in those areas of the facility where staff are working (not all areas of a facility may be in use during a pandemic)
- Avoid placing influenza patients in rooms with carpeting if possible
- If dusting is performed, use a damp towel, and do not spray cleaning solution
- If vacuuming is performed, it should be done using vacuum cleaners with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters
- Persons performing cleaning duties should wear cleaning gloves and should clean their hands after removing gloves, and wear additional PPE (such as masks) as necessary
- Trash from the rooms of residents known or suspected to be infected with pandemic influenza does not need to be handled as biohazardous waste unless it otherwise meets that definition*

Frequent Disinfection of Your Facility is Necessary

- Shared work areas such as desktops and tables, and frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, stair rails, faucet handles, etc. should be cleaned and disinfected by cleaning staff or other staff at least once a day, and between shifts or more often if possible

Additional Measures to Reduce the Spread of Disease

- Telephones, pens, and other equipment should not be shared. If equipment must be shared it should be cleaned and disinfected between users
- Remove non-essential items (e.g., magazines/newspapers) from common areas (such as dining and group living areas)

Cleaning Supplies *(See Worksheet X: Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Products for additional details)*

- Cleaning supplies should be made available for use by staff. Specialized cleaning solutions are not needed. Routinely used cleaning products (EPA-registered disinfectants or bleach solution) may be used
- If bleach solution is used, mixing ¼ cup household bleach with 1 gallon of water makes an adequate bleach solution. This solution should be mixed fresh daily

*Under the California Health and Safety Code (section 117635), biohazardous waste is defined as waste that contains recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers or equipment containing blood that is fluid, or blood from animals known to be infected with diseases that are highly communicable to humans.