

USET Tribal Epidemiology Center

Recommendations for Tribal Consideration

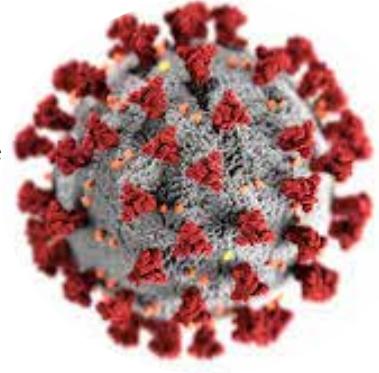
USET TEC COVID-19 Guidance 2020-005:

Appropriate Use of Disinfectants in Clinical and other Public Spaces



Background

Coronavirus is a positive single-strand enveloped RNA virus belonging to the family Coronaviridae. The envelope is made up of lipids (fats) and provides protection to the virus. This lipid envelope is easily compromised by many disinfectants, which effectively neutralizes the virus. Seven coronaviruses have been identified as causes of human disease and the virus that causes COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2. To decrease the rate of transmission of COVID-19, the USET Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) recommends appropriate infection control cleaning in clinical and other public settings based on the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) infection control cleaning guidelines.



Cleaning Recommendations for Infection Control

- Dedicated medical equipment should be used when caring for patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
- All non-dedicated, non-disposable medical equipment used for patient care should be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's instructions and facility policies. Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly. Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an [EPA-registered](#), hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for SARS-CoV-2 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol generating procedures are performed.
- When cleaning, it is important to frequently change the cleaning towel or cloth because some cleaning supplies can breed and transfer germs. When cleaning different areas such as bathrooms, kitchens, or high-contact areas such as handrails, elevator buttons, door handles, sinks and faucets, and countertops, use a new cleaning tool to decrease spreading germs.
- If cleaning with disposable gloves, discard gloves after one use (e.g., cleaning the break room).
- If using reusable utility gloves to clean, replace the gloves when wear and tear are noticed, including cracks, peeling, or breaks in the material.
- If cleaning with bare hands, correct handwashing methods should occur each time an area is finished and before cleaning a new area (e.g., cleaning bathrooms vs. cleaning common areas such as break rooms).
- All disinfectants should be used to clean external surfaces and as directed on the label.

The USET Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) is charged under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act with providing epidemiologic and public health support to federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Nashville Area. The USET TEC is a designated public health authority.