



Iowa Department of Public Health

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection for Influenza QUICK GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES

Infectious Materials

Depending on the specific type, viruses have the potential to be present in almost all body secretions (including saliva, nasal fluid, blood, cerebrospinal fluid, and feces). Environmental surfaces can harbor viruses when contaminated with a body secretion from infectious persons.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Normal cleaning procedures and frequencies are effective for the majority of surfaces to minimize potential exposures. Commonly touched surfaces that are not included in daily cleaning routines should be cleaned more frequently during outbreaks using standard cleaning products. Frequently touched electronic or computer equipment can be cleaned by wiping with sanitizing cloths.

Commonly touched surfaces include but are not limited to:

- Door knobs or handles
- Hand rails
- Shared computer keyboards and mice
- Shared counters or desks
- Sink faucet handles and hand contact areas of drinking fountains
- Remote controls, equipment button panels, and handheld electronics

Suitable Disinfectants

Soap and hot water is an effective viral disinfectant. In addition, influenza A viruses can be effectively killed by many common disinfectants including bleach and ammonia based cleaning products. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains a list commercial disinfecting products that are effective against influenza A viruses for hard non-porous surfaces (<http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/influenza-a-product-list.pdf>). Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for use, dilution, and contact time.

It is recommended that schools check to ensure the cleaning products and/or active ingredients they normally use are effective against influenza A viruses in advance and plan accordingly.

If an EPA listed product is not available an effective disinfecting solution can be made using bleach (sodium hypochlorite).

- Bleach solutions should be prepared following manufacturer instructions.
- Bleach is inactivated by organic material (body secretions, vomit, blood, feces). Surfaces must be cleaned before disinfection will be effective.
- Bleach solutions degrade over time, should be kept in a closed container away from sunlight, and must be made fresh daily.
- Do not mix bleach with other cleaning products.

For more information on novel influenza, visit our website at: www.idph.state.ia.us.

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