

FURNITURE & FIXTURES

While influenza is most commonly spread through droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, and talking, disinfection of environmental surfaces such as furniture and fixtures is an important component of an effective infection control program. The following procedures are based on public health recommendations for areas known to be contaminated with influenza.^{1,2} Each situation should be evaluated individually.

FREQUENCY

- ▲ Depending on use, frequently touched surfaces should be treated most often.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- ▲ Wear disposable gloves while cleaning. Discard gloves after use.
- ▲ Wash hands frequently, before and after gloving with soap and water and/or and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ▲ Masks may be used when aerosols or excessive dust exist.

¹ Health & Human Services Pandemic Influenza Plan Supplement 4 .
<http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/sup4.html#s4-II>

² WHO Interim Infection Control Guideline for Health Care Facilities. 24 April 2006.

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PROCEDURE

Hard, non-porous surfaces

1. Carefully read and follow disinfectant directions for use
2. If visibly soiled, surface must be cleaned and rinsed before disinfection.
Work top to bottom.
3. Thoroughly wet surface with a registered disinfectant.³ Surface must remain wetted per label instructions for disinfection.
4. Wipe down items that could be damaged by exposure to excess water.
5. Pay attention to frequently-touched surfaces such as light and air control switches, faucet's, toilet flush levers, door handles, handrails, telephones, elevator touch pads, keyboards, and remote controls with a registered disinfectant per label instructions.³

Porous surfaces

Survival of typical influenza viruses on porous surfaces is reduced compared to non-porous surfaces.⁴ Visually contaminated surfaces should be treated as appropriate to reduce the potential for spread of infection. This may include extraction treatments (see carpet), wipes, or sprays, depending on the surface. Consider non-porous materials (e.g. plastic or vinyl) for furniture and fixtures that are likely to be exposed to contamination on a frequent basis.

COMMENTS:

- Increase cleaning and disinfection frequency for restrooms and frequently touched surfaces in public areas.
- All surfaces in the restroom that may have contacted respiratory secretions, urine, or feces should be disinfected according to standard infection control procedures.
- Contact your Ecolab representative if more specific procedures are needed.

³ For example, EPA-registered in USA, DIN- registered in Canada, or per local regulatory requirements

⁴ Bean et al. 1982. Survival of influenza viruses on environmental surfaces. J. Infect Dis. 146(1):47-51.