

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTION FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA EXPOSURE CONTROL

References:

- *Influenza*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. (Website rev. March 2018)¹;
- *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)* 5th ed. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute of Health.

Introduction and Scope

An influenza pandemic occurs when a novel virus emerges for which the majority of the population has little or no immunity. Influenza pandemics are facilitated by sustained human-to-human transmission, and the infection spreads worldwide over a relatively short period of time¹. In the event of a pandemic, international, national, state, and local health experts will advise on recommended mitigation measures appropriate to a specific area based on severity of the outbreak.

The information in this SOP is specific to environmental surface cleaning of routinely touched surfaces and objects (e.g., door knobs, desks, keyboards, tables, etc.) to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Contact transmission (i.e., hand transfer of virus from contaminated objects to the eyes, nose, or mouth) is a recognized route of virus spread. Routine cleaning of contaminated surfaces is recommended to reduce the spread of influenza viruses.¹

The content of this SOP is directed to the general campus community and is not intended for high risk areas, such as health care facilities, animal quarantine/quelling areas, etc. This SOP **does not** address disposal of infected animal carcasses. Such procedures would be situation dependent and developed in consultation with the Nebraska Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Health and Human Services, and other agencies, as appropriate.

Information Sources

This SOP summarizes current recommendations from public health agencies available in the public domain. The World Health Organization (WHO), CDC, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and other public health agencies may modify recommendations based on specific attributes of a specific flu virus. Additionally, the Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report, as provided by the CDC, graphically illustrates recent positive diagnoses from clinical labs. UNL-specific information during a pandemic event may be available on the UNL Emergency Planning and Preparedness website (<http://emergency.unl.edu>).

Suitable Disinfectants

The preferred means of disinfecting environmental surfaces is washing with detergent and hot water. EPA-registered disinfectants are also acceptable, but generally pose exposure risk and require use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Further guidance on

appropriate and recommended disinfectants may be distributed by CDC and/or WHO as part of the pandemic response.

General Disinfection/Cleaning Considerations

- Do not clean with dry dusting or sweeping as this may create aerosols. Use damp cleaning methods.
- Change mop heads, rags, and similar items and disinfectant solutions frequently during the decontamination procedure. Consider disposable cleaning items. Work from areas of light contamination to areas of heavier contamination.
- Use a double bucket method (one bucket for cleaning solution, one for rinsing).
- Clean, disinfect, and dry equipment used for cleaning after each use.
- Wash hands thoroughly after each work session;
- Consult your supervisor with any questions or concerns.

Specific Disinfection/Cleaning Guidance

- ***Dishes and Eating Utensils*** –Effective decontamination of non-disposable items is achieved by washing in a properly functioning dishwasher at recommended temperatures and quantities of detergent. Disposable items can be discarded as ordinary refuse.
- ***Linens and Laundry*** – Clothing, bedding and towels should not be shaken or otherwise handled in a manner that may generate aerosols. Bag items securely before removing from potentially contaminated areas. Read and follow the clothing and soap or detergent label instructions. Water temperatures for laundry depend on the type of fiber or fabric of the clothing. In general, wash and dry in the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label. Also, some laundry detergents are made to clean best at certain temperatures. Not following instructions could damage the item or decrease the effectiveness of the detergent. It is not necessary to use bleach for each load of laundry. Clean laundry produced by washing with detergent alone will be safe for wear and use. Use of bleach as a disinfectant in laundering is optional, and not all fabrics are suitable for bleach. Read the clothing/material label instructions before laundering. Personnel handling potentially contaminated laundry should wear disposable gloves and wash hands after removing gloves
- ***Carpeting and Cloth Furnishings*** –Notify Custodial Services if carpeting or furnishings require decontamination and cleaning. They have specific procedures and equipment to maintain material integrity.

Frequency

Areas and items known or likely to be contaminated should be disinfected at least daily.