

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** BCs  
**FROM:** DC Schwab  
**DATE:** 2/7/2020  
**RE:** Environmental cleaning and disinfection strategy

**GOAL:** Ensure adequate cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces and reusable devices, especially items likely to be contaminated with feces and surfaces that are touched frequently. This includes the fire station living areas, floors, apparatus, and apparatus bays.

**PPE:** EMS disposable gloves

**Cleaning Tools/Product:** Clorox Healthcare Bleach Disposable Germicidal Wipes.

**Other Tools:** Dust mops, Floor mops, Bleach and water, Extractor, Station Laundry Washer/Dryer, Laundry detergent, and Laundry bleach additive.

**Tool Notes:**


1. Use disposable germicidal wipes
  - a. Allow to air dry
  - b. Alcohol based wipes are ineffective
2. Bleach: CDC recommends using bleach/water 1:10 ratio: 1 cup of bleach + 9 cups of water made fresh daily. Mix a fresh solution every 24 hours because the bleach strength decreases over time and may not be effective. Keep surfaces wet with solution for ten minutes before drying with a clean towel or cloth.
3. Floor vacuum shall have a hepa filter
4. Clean used mop heads and dust mop heads in an extractor
5. Laundry
  - a. Use bleach additive
  - b. Water temperature high/hot
  - c. Dryer temperature high/hot
  - d. No fabric softener

**General Cleaning:**

**Pre-clean:** Surfaces to be disinfected should be clean and free from visible contamination. Gross contamination, such as fecal matter or



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other bodily fluids/waste, should be cleaned by scrubbing with a disposable wipe, towelettes, or cloth.

**Disinfection:** Treated surface shall remain wet for at least three minutes and allow the surface to air dry. Any remaining product can be removed with disposable towelettes, wipes, or cloth. Do not reuse soiled wipes or cloths. Cleaning technique should employ the top-to-bottom, back-to-front cleaning approach to minimize the spread of spores and cross-contaminating surfaces. Floors and bathrooms should be cleaned last.

It is best to use disposal wipes, paper towels, or cleaning cloths that can be washed in hot bleach water after cleaning, sponges are not recommended. The dirty cloth should not return to a clean bucket of solution and buckets/containers should be washed and disinfected after each use.

#### **Bathroom:**

- Clean and disinfect all hard, nonporous bathroom surfaces. Start with the highest surface (like the mirror) and leave the toilet for last.
- Ensure that all surfaces are disinfected, including the mirror, shower grab bars, shower fixtures, bathroom sink handles, toilet flush handle and bathroom toilet seat.
- Remove fabric shower curtains – replace with a plain plastic/vinyl shower liner that will be able to be cleaned with a bleach product.
- Store toothbrushes, personal grooming items, and towels in a cabinet, linen closet, in zip-lock plastic bags, or under the sink.
- Use bleach solution on the floors

#### **Kitchen, Day areas, and Sleeping Areas:**

- Wipe Down: Tables, desks, chairs, headboards, nightstands, bed rails, lockers, computers, phones, remotes, storage bins, walls, floors, countertops, partitions, doorknobs, handles, and light switches.
- Appliances (such as refrigerator handles, oven handles), sinks, and counter-tops
- Any other high-touch surfaces to be disinfected

#### **Apparatus:**

- Seats, steering wheel, cab areas (switches, controls, dashboard, seatbelt) touched by hands, door handles, toolbox and aid kit handles.
- Radios, tablets, MDC, and clip boards.
- Clean all items that are shared between individuals (such as glucose meters, thermometers, BP cuffs, stethoscopes).
- Pump panel controls

#### **Apparatus bay:**

- Sinks, cabinet handles, tool handles, door handles, light and door switches.
- Any other high-touch surfaces to be disinfected

