COVID-19 (caused by SARS-CoV-2): FAQs and what you need to know regarding cleaning & disinfectants

What is COVID-19?

- The family of coronavirus includes at least 7 different viruses that can infect humans.
- The most common ones are seasonal – 229E, NL63, OC43, HKU1 – causing upper respiratory symptoms like runny nose, congestion, cough, fever, malaise, sore throat and headache. These are frequently seen in humans.
- COVID-19 is a coronavirus caused by a previously unidentified coronavirus which can cause more serious illness than the seasonal strains.

How is COVID-19 transmitted?

- COVID-19 can spread from person-to-person through small droplets from the nose or mouth when individuals cough or sneeze. These droplets may land on objects and surfaces.
- Individuals may contract the disease by touching these objects or surfaces then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.

What is Lee Health doing to prevent COVID-19?

- Early screening of patients to ensure the proper isolation precautions are implemented.
- Frequent cleaning of common areas such as the emergency department, visitor waiting areas, and patient rooms that have known COVID-19 patients.
- Adhering to the best practices for airborne and contact isolation used for patients with COVID-19. Best practices include the use of gown, gloves, eye protection, and N95 respirator mask. These patients should be in AIIR rooms. There will be a staff log so before entering the room please provide your name, ID number, and best contact phone number for follow-up.

Why does EVS have one of the most important roles in prevention?

- Standardized practices for cleaning with the EPA approved disinfectant is one way we can prevent spread to others.

What special precautions should be taken with linens?

- Linen from patient rooms who are persons under investigation and confirmed for COVID-19 should be tied and labeled “SARS-CoV-2”.

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What are the EPA approved disinfectants? What are the contact times?

- Clorox Healthcare bleach wipes: 1-minute contact time
  Pre-clean heavily soiled areas. Treated surfaces must remain wet for (1 minute) and allow to air dry. Frequency of cleaning is between each patient care.

- Clorox Healthcare hydrogen peroxide wipes: 1-minute contact time
  Pre-clean heavily soiled areas. Treated surfaces must remain wet for (1 minute) and allow to air dry. Frequency of cleaning is between each patient care.

- Virex PLUS (1:128 dilution): 5 minutes
  EPA product against SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19. It can also be used to pre-clean and disinfect hospital (non-critical medical devices) items such as wheelchairs, patient bed rails and linings, washbasins, bedpans, and medical equipment surfaces. The product dilution is 1:128, with contact time of 5 minutes. Daily and terminal cleaning or as directed by infection prevention team.

Remember:

- Washing your hands with soap and water is the most effective way to prevent spreading the germ with your hands