



Best Practices For Cleaning/Disinfecting Ambulances



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- I. Purpose- These Best Practices are being provided to provide guidance and clarification for agencies to have a better understanding of how to ensure proper cleaning/disinfecting of their ambulances during this time of transports of COVID-19 patients. These Best Practices are to provide responders with confidence that these procedures will keep them safe and also ensure that ambulance turnaround times are not prolonged due to unnecessary procedures being done or locations being visited.
- II. Definitions
 - A. **Routine Cleaning**- the use of cleaners and water to wash the exterior and interior of an ambulance.
 - B. **Disinfection**- the application of an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label.
 - 1. As per the CDC's guidance on "Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles after Transporting a PUI or Patient with Confirmed COVID-19"
 - a) disinfection is appropriate for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (virus that causes COVID-19) in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed such as ambulances.
 - b) "Clean and disinfect the vehicle in accordance with standard operating procedures. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls, work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant in accordance with the product label."
 - 2. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has List N which includes products that meet EPA's registration criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. To access this list please click [here](#).
- III. Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles after Transporting a PUI or Patient with Confirmed COVID-19
 - A. The following are general guidelines for cleaning or maintaining EMS transport vehicles and equipment after transporting a PUI:

1. After transporting the patient, leave the rear doors of the transport vehicle open to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.
 - a) The time to complete transfer of the patient to the receiving facility and complete all documentation should provide sufficient air changes.
2. When cleaning the vehicle, EMS clinicians should wear a disposable gown and gloves. A face shield or facemask and goggles should also be worn if splashes or sprays during cleaning are anticipated.
3. Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly, to include the provision of adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use. Doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.
4. Clean and disinfect the vehicle in accordance with standard operating procedures. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls, work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant in accordance with the product label. **See list above in definitions.
5. Clean and disinfect reusable patient-care equipment before use on another patient, according to manufacturer's instructions. Wiping down with virucidal wipes and allowing to air dry should be sufficient in most cases.
6. Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE and regulated medical waste. All contaminated products should be placed in a red bag.
7. Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering used linen. Avoid shaking the linen.

IV. Use of Aeroclave and other disinfection devices

- A. Currently, the Suffolk County EMS Division and Stony Brook Hospital have Aeroclave devices for which ambulances that have been grossly contaminated can be disinfected.
- B. However, it should be noted that the use of this device, or others like it, is not necessary in most cases as the above guidelines are effective in the killing of coronaviruses. It is not necessary to use this type of commercial virus after the routine transport of a suspected or confirmed patient with COVID-19.**

V. References-

- A. Interim Guidance for Preventing 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html>)
- B. WHO Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected

([https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125))