

# Cleaning and Disinfection of Equipment/Devices/Surfaces – Infection Control

## Site Applicability

All PHC Sites

## Responsibility and Accountability

It is the responsibility of all staff to understand and apply the procedures for cleaning and disinfecting equipment/devices and environmental surfaces to prevent the transmission of health care acquired infections.

## Correct Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures

Organisms are easily killed with low level cleaners and disinfectants. It is important to know the products you are using have chemicals that both clean and disinfect. At PHC we generally use Caviwipes - which contain both a cleaning and disinfectant chemical<sup>1</sup>.

## Cleaning and Disinfection is a Two Step Procedure

**Step 1: Clean** equipment/devices/surfaces with a new wipe or cloth using a “Rub and Scrub” motion to remove any foreign matter such as dust, soil, food, feces, blood, sputum and organisms. Follow immediately with Step 2.

**Step 2: Disinfect** the equipment/device/surface using a new wipe or cloth to achieve disinfection or the removal of any remaining organisms. To kill the organisms, the chemical must wet the surface and be allowed to air dry to achieve the kill. This is the “dwell time”. For Caviwipes the dwell time is 3 minutes.

**Remember to keep the wipe containers closed to prevent evaporation of the chemicals.**

**Remember to keep surfaces and rooms decluttered to enable cleaning & disinfection.**



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### Good to know:

Pathogenic organisms live for long periods on surfaces that are not properly cleaned and disinfected. These can be transmitted to patients/residents on improperly cleaned hands, causing serious infections that may have few or no treatment options. Organisms like SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus) and influenza can live in the environment for hours to days, organisms like CPO, MRSA, VRE and C. Diff can live in the environment for weeks to months!

Organisms have developed resistance to some or all of our last resort antibiotics - and some, like COVID, have no available treatment. Preventing infection is highly dependent on ensuring multi-use patient/resident equipment/devices and environmental surfaces are properly cleaned and disinfected and meticulous hand hygiene is used following the WHO's Five Moments of Hand Hygiene.

### Related Documents

1. [How to Clean and Disinfect a Workstation on Wheels \(WOW\)](#)
2. [Reusable Protective Eyewear – Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
3. [Master Equipment Cleaning List \(Infection Control\)](#)

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<sup>ii</sup> Refer to the [PHC Master Equipment Cleaning List](#) for a list of specific equipment and required cleaning and disinfection procedures.