

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information Bulletin

Question:

Is PortionPac[®] Germicidal Cleaner effective against Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)?

Answer:

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019) is a new human illness caused by novel virus SARS-CoV-2 (formerly known as 2019-nCoV). There are currently no EPA-registered disinfectants with a clinical test-verified efficacy claim against SARS-CoV-2.

Recently, the EPA activated protocols for EPA registrants with a pre-qualified emerging viral pathogen designation that authorizes a claim of possible efficacy if a known pathogen with a verified claim is sufficiently similar to the new pathogen. PortionPac[®] is not a pre-qualified EPA-registrant, and therefore cannot make this claim for our Germicidal Cleaner. PortionPac[®] Germicidal Cleaner is effective against previously known SARS Associated Coronavirus.

Question:

How do I protect myself from getting COVID-19?

Answer:

There is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. As with past virulent pathogens such as H1N1 Influenza, the CDC recommends avoidance to exposure along with general respiratory infection control measures as the best way to prevent illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for at least 20 seconds. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a face mask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are not ill wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
 - The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

General Information:

How is COVID-19 transmitted?

COVID-19 is caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, a member of the large family of coronaviruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as the case with related coronaviruses [MERS](#) and [SARS](#). According to the CDC, while COVID-19 poses a serious public health threat, immediate health risk to the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, is considered low.

At this time, the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

How long can COVID-19 be transmitted on surfaces?

At present little is known about surface transmission of COVID-19. The latest information from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that transmission via surfaces is likely similar to that of other coronaviruses. COVID-19 is caused by an enveloped virus that as a class is generally considered one of the easier pathogens to kill due to a fatty lipid coating that is quickly broken down by detergents, disinfectants and alcohol-based sanitizers. While studies suggest that coronaviruses may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days, this is dependent on many variables such as type of surface, temperature and environmental humidity.

High touch areas such as doorknobs, stair railings, elevator buttons and public telephones may be the most susceptible to contamination. For surfaces that are suspected of contamination, the WHO's recommendation is to clean with a simple disinfectant. High touch areas described above should be cleaned frequently, and at least several times a day.

WHO and the CDC emphasize that for the general public personal preventative steps like frequently and properly washing hands are most important to reduce the risk of infection. Use soap and water or, if unavailable, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching eyes, mouth or nose.

For more information go to:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

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