

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information Bulletin – UPDATED 3/14/2020

Question:

Are PortionPac Chemical Corporation's disinfectants: Germicidal Cleaner and Germicidal CleanerQ effective against Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)?

Answer:

PortionPac Chemical Corporation's disinfectants meet the EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19. As of Friday, March 13, the EPA has expanded [List N: Products with Emerging Viral Pathogens and Human Coronavirus claims for use against SARS-CoV-2](#). Products with EPA Registration Numbers on this list can be used to help prevent surface transmission of COVID-19.

PortionPac Chemical Corporation's disinfectants are EPA registered formulations of the Stepan Company. The EPA registration numbers are: 1839-215 and 1839-168. Both have a Human Coronavirus claim and meet the EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. EPA registration numbers for our products can be found on each pouch, carton and inner carton label of our disinfectants.

Procedures to stop transmission of COVID-19 remain the following:

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 an EPA registered disinfectant cleaner.

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](#).

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.

It may also be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. There are a growing number of community acquired cases where the source of the infection is unknown.

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 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>

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>