

HARMONY EVENT MEDICINE

Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sterilizing

Defining differences:

Cleaning pertains to removing visible debris.

Disinfection involves using chemicals to kill most microorganisms on surfaces.

Sterilizing is a more extreme process to eliminate all spores and microorganisms by using heat, chemicals, or radiation.

In the following document, you will find HEM's protocol on cleaning and disinfection during an event. Because we are not using instruments that are normally invasive (e.g. scalpels), there is no need for us to sterilize. However, we do need to disinfect scissors or tweezers that we may use on wounds or broken skin. Here is a simple in-service using common sense guidelines on dealing with situations where we may come into contact with bodily fluids (which may carry HIV, Hepatitis A, B, or C, etc.). These guidelines are based on universal precautions.

Treat all body fluids as if they are carrying infectious disease: We **MUST** use barriers to protect ourselves. Blood, feces, vomit, mucus, and coughed/sneezed particulate can carry disease. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as gloves, masks, and eye shields, provide a barrier between us and harmful microorganisms.

If the patron is coughing/sick have them wear a mask to prevent the spread of germs.

When possible, encourage anyone with a bleeding nose or wound to put pressure, clean it themselves, and apply their own dressing.

Dispose of soiled linens and supplies appropriately. There are RED biohazard bags on site if needed. Please notify the shift lead when these are used.

Please view the video on our website, in the safety documents & protocols section, on how to wear and remove (donning and doffing) PPE's properly. Please ask your shift lead or shift supervisor if you have any questions. ALWAYS wash with warm/hot water and non-abrasive soap AFTER removing the PPE's.

****Wash hands or use hand sanitizer between each patient.****

NEVER FORGET YOUR PPE'S & THESE RULES THEY WILL PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Cleaning and Disinfecting are NOT the same!

ON CLEANING -

To truly stop the spread of germs, both cleaning and disinfecting need to be completed. Cleaning gets rid of the dirt or grime you see. Routine cleaning with soap and water reduces the number of germs on surfaces, just as washing your hands reduces germs on your hands. Alcohol based cleaners should be considered cleaning agents, NOT disinfectants, in light of some resistant microorganisms that exist today.

- To clean your hands: Use soap and hot water, once dry, use hand sanitizer.

- To clean surfaces: Use paper or linen towels with soap and hot water to remove visible grime.

ON DISINFECTING -

Disinfecting kills microorganisms you cannot see, as well as the germs that may remain after cleaning. Many of our tools and surfaces should have the additional step of disinfecting in order to KILL germs/microorganisms. To disinfect, use a bleach solution or hospital-grade sanitizer (EPA recognized). Effective disinfecting usually requires letting the chemical dwell for a few minutes, long enough for it to take action and thoroughly kill the germs.

+DISINFECTION SOLUTION RECIPE: **One part BLEACH per ten parts water.**

Use in a spray bottle on table tops, chairs, puke buckets, wheelchairs, or ANYTHING a patron might touch or infect with their 'goodies'.

+FOR INSTRUMENTS: After a solid cleaning (while wearing your PPE's) and soaking in soapy water, rinse off, then place in disinfection solution for 15 minutes. Rinse again and place back into service. Discard disinfection solution after every use/soaking.

+FOR SURFACES: When visibly contaminated with blood, vomit, feces, or urine, clean the area first using the instructions listed above. Then, use a spray bottle with the disinfection solution to spray the area, and let the solution dwell for 15 minutes before wiping.

+IF BANDAGES ARE SOAKED WITH BLOOD: Place in Red Bio-hazard bags before placing in the trash. This way, you protect your teammates from contamination as well.

