SOG for Decontamination of Equipment, Lab Space, and Facilities during the Phased return to research at UNTHSC in regard to recent events concerning COVID -19

Purpose: Describes the correct method for decontamination of laboratory space and equipment. Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, computer and other laboratory equipment.

Scope: Applies to all research personnel who are authorized to work during the phased return to research at UNTHSC in regard to recent events concerning COVID -19

Responsibility: Everyone who works in the laboratory should understand and practice proper cleaning and disinfection guidelines regardless of their job or activities in the lab.

Principle: The effectiveness of disinfectants depends upon the population of organisms present, the concentration of both organism and disinfectant, the duration of contact, and the presence of organic debris. Common laboratory disinfectants with broad antimicrobial efficacy are working solutions of 70% ethanol and 10% freshly prepared sodium hypochlorite (bleach). Prior to selecting any commercially available disinfectant for your laboratory, it is important to check the susceptibility and the recommended contact time of novel COVID-19 and strain with which you are working.

Safety Controls

Please use gloves while working with the solutions and mix the solutions in the hood.Many disinfectants are respiratory, skin, and/or eye irritants and require while mixing and handling these solutions. Please make sure you take protective safety measures.

Materials:

- EPA approved disinfectant,
- 70% ethanol
- 10% freshly prepared beach (Prepare everyday)
- Gloves

Procedure:

- Disinfect common laboratory areas and frequently touched surfaces with 70% ethanol with at least 5 minutes contact time (e.g. doorknobs, sink handles, freezer doors, fume hood sashes, telephones).

- If you use EPA-registered disinfectant agent to disinfect the area, follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label)
- Freshly prepared 10% bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface. Leave solution on the surface for at least 1-minute contact time.
- For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls consider covering them with a wipe able cover. Follow manufacturer's instruction for cleaning and disinfecting
- If you are unsure of which disinfectant is appropriate, alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol should be used. Dry surface thoroughly.

Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts.

Institutional Responsibility:

The Departments will ensure that laboratories are provided with disposable wipes for cleaning commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) that need to need cleaned before use.

Ensure adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.

Reference:

- https://www.lsuhsc.edu/admin/pfm/ehs/docs/decon.pdf
- https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars- cov-2
- https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/disinfection-methods/chemical.html

A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available herepdf iconexternal icon. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).