Date: January 24, 2020
From: Ecolab Healthcare
Subject: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Background: Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world. Human coronaviruses commonly cause mild to moderate illness. Two newer human coronaviruses, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, have been known to cause severe illness. A novel coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, emerged in 2019 and is causing concern.

What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

- Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus originating in Wuhan, China.
- This virus has resulted in hundreds of confirmed cases, including cases outside Wuhan, with additional cases being identified in a growing number of countries internationally. The first case in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020 with additional suspected cases being evaluated.
- Clinical signs and symptoms include fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).
- Early on, many patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting person-to-person spread is occurring, though it’s unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. Both MERS and SARS have been known to cause severe illness in people. The situation with 2019-nCoV is still unclear and evolving rapidly. While severe illness, including illness resulting in numerous deaths, has been reported in China, other patients have had milder illness and been discharged. Person-to-person transmission has been reported in healthcare workers who were caring for some of the ill people in China.

What are the healthcare infection control precautions for 2019-nCoV?

Although the transmission dynamics have yet to be determined, CDC currently recommends a cautious approach to patients under investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus:

- Patients should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available.
- Healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield). The healthcare facility’s infection control personnel and local health department should be notified immediately.
- Meticulous hand hygiene and environmental hygiene play a key role in these isolation precautions. The EPA recognizes environmental surfaces as a vector for transmission of coronaviruses.
- CDC has developed a real time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) test that can diagnose 2019-nCoV. Currently, testing for this virus must take place at CDC, but in the coming days and weeks, CDC will share these tests with domestic and international partners.
What hand hygiene products are effective against 2019-nCoV?

Washing your hands often with soap and water is one of the best ways to avoid transmission of emerging pathogens. The Food and Drug Administration regulates claims on both medicated, antimicrobial soaps and on alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Claims related to efficacy against viruses are not allowed on any medicated, antimicrobial soaps nor on any alcohol-based hand sanitizers in the United States.

What disinfectants are effective against 2019-nCoV?

2019-nCoV is caused by 2019 Novel Coronavirus. The products in the table below kill similar viruses and therefore can be used against 2019 Novel Coronavirus when used in accordance with the directions for use against the listed supporting virus on hard, non-porous surfaces. Refer to the CDC website at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/novel-coronavirus-china for additional information. Contact your Ecolab Account Executive for additional product information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>EPA Registration #</th>
<th>Name of Supporting Virus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-456 II DISINFECTANT CLEANER</td>
<td>6836-78-1677</td>
<td>Norovirus (Feline calicivirus surrogate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUTRAL DISINFECTANT CLEANER</td>
<td>47371-129-1677</td>
<td>Adenovirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OXYCIDE DAILY DISINFECTANT CLEANER</td>
<td>1677-237</td>
<td>Norovirus (Feline calicivirus surrogate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUATERNARY DISINFECTANT CLEANER</td>
<td>6836-78-1677</td>
<td>Norovirus (Feline calicivirus surrogate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB DISINFECTANT CLEANER RTU</td>
<td>1839-83-1677</td>
<td>Poliovirus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What work is still ongoing?

- Screening of travelers from Wuhan, China. CDC began entry screening of passengers on direct and connecting flights from Wuhan, China to the three main ports of entry in the United States (San Francisco International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport and New York’s John F. Kennedy) on January 17, 2020 and will expand that screening to Atlanta and Chicago in the coming days. CDC, working with DHS, also will funnel all travelers from Wuhan, China to the five airports conducting entry health screening. Together, the five airports will cover all travelers arriving in the United States whose travel originated from Wuhan, China.
- Determining the origin of the virus, which could lead to recommended guidance related to transmission from animals.
- Disease progression among ill people and how they may have acquired the infection.
- The frequency and likelihood of person-to-person transmission.

For More Information

World Health Organization, Coronavirus https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

References: