

# COVID-19 SUMMARY GUIDANCE #6

## Cleaning and disinfection management

### Viability of SARS-CoV-2 on aerosols and different surfaces

It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems likely to behave like other coronaviruses. A recent review of the survival of human coronaviruses on surfaces found large variability, ranging from 2 hours to 9 days.

Many disinfectants are active against enveloped viruses, such as the COVID-19 virus, including commonly used hospital disinfectants. Currently, WHO recommends using:

- 70% ethyl alcohol to disinfect small areas between uses, such as reusable dedicated equipment (for example, thermometers);
- sodium hypochlorite at 0.5% (equivalent to 5000 ppm) for disinfecting surfaces.

### Disinfectants or disinfection methods for commonly contaminated objects

SARS-CoV-2 is sensitive to:

- Ultraviolet radiation
- Heat (56°C for 30 minutes)
- Disinfectants (for one minute):
  - Ether
  - Ethanol (62-75%)
  - Hydrogen peroxide 0.5%
  - Sodium hypochlorite 0.1%
  - Other chlorine-containing disinfectants
  - Peracetic acid
  - Chloroform
  - (Chlorhexidine could not effectively inactivate SARS-CoV-2)

#### Recommended applications

**Hands:** Soap and water, alcohol-containing quick-drying hand disinfectant, chlorine-containing disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide

**Skin:** 0.5% iodine-based disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide

**Mucosa:** 0.05% iodine-based disinfectant