



FAQ about Ebola for Certol Customer Service

What is Ebola?

Ebola is a severe disease with a 40 to 50% fatality rate. It is caused by an enveloped virus. Herpes Simplex and Influenza A or B are also enveloped viruses. This group is generally less resistant to disinfectant chemicals.

How is Ebola spread?

Ebola is spread through direct contact with body fluids including blood, mucous, vomit and feces of persons demonstrating active symptoms of infection such as fever over 101 degrees and abdominal pain. It may be picked up directly from touching the infected person, infected needles used in treatment; or clothing, bedding, bathroom surfaces, etc. of the infected person. It is not spread through the air, water or food.

Does ProSpray kill Ebola?

Certol ProSpray was tested to meet stringent EPA requirements and inactivates viruses in the same resistance group as Ebola (enveloped virus). Although intermediate level disinfectants with TB kill such as ProSpray will inactivate Ebola, The CDC has issued interim guidelines to healthcare settings when disinfecting areas likely to be contaminated with Ebola and caring for persons under quarantine or with probable or confirmed Ebola infection. Such guidelines do not apply in routine outpatient or dental settings.

Check the CDC website frequently for updates at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola

Excerpt of Interim Guidelines as of 10-2014:

- Ensure correct PPE for environmental services staff and care-givers. Follow CDC protocol for donning and removing PPE.
- Use a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered hospital disinfectant with a label claim for a non-enveloped virus (e.g., norovirus, rotavirus, adenovirus, poliovirus) to disinfect environmental surfaces in rooms of patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus infection. Although there are no products with specific label claims against the Ebola virus, enveloped viruses such as Ebola are susceptible to a broad range of hospital disinfectants used to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces. In contrast, non-enveloped viruses are more resistant to disinfectants. As a precaution, selection of a disinfectant product with a higher potency than what is normally required for an enveloped virus is being recommended at this time.
- Avoid contamination of reusable porous surfaces that cannot be made single use. Use only a mattress and pillow with plastic or other covering that fluids cannot get through. Do not place patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus infection in carpeted rooms and remove all upholstered furniture and decorative curtains from patient rooms before use.