

Appendix J: General Cleaning Instructions

Careful vigorous cleaning of environmental surfaces is effective in removing many contaminants from surfaces.

Damp rather than dry dusting or sweeping should be performed, whenever possible.

Vacuum cleaners, equipped with exhaust filters, preferably HEPA filters, should be used on carpeted areas. Expelled air from vacuum cleaners should be diffused so that it does not aerosolize dust from unclean surfaces. Built-in vacuums are ideal. (N.B. This is more important for norovirus, which can remain infectious in carpets for weeks, than it is for influenza.)

During wet cleaning, cleaning solutions and the tools with which they are applied soon become contaminated. Therefore, a routine should be adopted that does not redistribute microorganisms. This may be accomplished by cleaning less heavily contaminated areas first and also by changing cleaning solutions and cloth/mop heads frequently.

Wet mopping is most commonly done with a double-bucket technique, i.e., one bucket for soil, one for rinsing. This technique extends the life of the solution because fewer changes are required. When a single bucket is used, the solution must be changed more frequently because of increased soil.

Tools used for cleaning and disinfecting must be cleaned and dried between uses.

Mop heads should be laundered daily. All washed mop heads must be dried thoroughly before storage or reuse.

SAMPLE CLEANING SCHEDULE				
Week of _____		Exam Room Number _____		
	Check each time cleaned (AM)	Midday cleaning	Check each time cleaned (PM)	End of day cleaning
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				