Preventing Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) and Other Deadly Viruses

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It's time to take action to keep your workplace, community, or building healthy this flu season. Especially now with the threat of the Novel Coronavirus (nCoV). While the spread of viruses can have a major impact on day to day operations, they can also be deadly. The flu season technically doesn't end until early April, but some years it has lasted well into May. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), February is the highest peak month. In the United States, influenza results in approximately 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths in a typical endemic season. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), while nCoV has been confirmed in North America, it is still relatively rare (15 confirmed cases as of 2/16/20 with 2 cases transmitted outside of travel to China, meaning person to person while in the United States). This does not mean that there isn't a potential threat for nCoV cases to rise and extra precaution should take place at home, work, and other community settings.

Prevention, awareness, and preparedness are the most important aspects to keeping a virus from spreading to epidemic proportions. For a virus to spread, it needs two things to survive: a host and a conduit. The host can be any living thing including animals, humans, and plants. The conduit is any environment or surface the virus can survive on. Virus-laden droplets may remain infectious for several hours, depending on where they fall. Viruses generally remain active longer on stainless steel, plastic and similar hard surfaces than on fabric and other soft surfaces. Viruses can also survive as droplets in the air for several hours; low temperatures increase their survival in the air.

Two of the most preventative steps a business owners, facility managers, or building occupants can take to minimize the spread of a virus are limiting contact (sick people should stay home) and preventative cleaning & sanitation. While it is strongly encouraged to practice good hygiene, frequent hand-washing should not provide a sense of security against being exposed.

Limiting Contact

If you feel a cold coming on, stay home. According to the CDC, People with the flu are most contagious in the first three to four days after their illness begins. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after

becoming sick. If you need to go out, wear a mask to prevent the spreading of germs. Instead of spreading a virus, spread information. The WHO has downloadable posters and signs to help spread awareness and to educate your community, residents, employees, and family: www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public

Preventative Cleaning & Sanitation

While many buildings may be equipped with the industrial strength cleaners it is important to note that not all cleaning solutions are created equal. Per the CDC a disinfectant for nCoV application should be, EPA Regulated, hospital grade, and preferably have nCoV like claims.

The following is a guideline for using ServprOXIDE™ in the cleaning and disinfecting of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) contamination in commercial, institutional, and home environments. This guide may be superseded by local regulations. SERVPRO® a leader in industrial and bio-hazardous cleaning, has released the following information.

ServprOXIDE™ disinfectant is EPA Reg., hospital grade and has claims against coronaviruses such as canine coronavirus and feline coronavirus. nCoV contamination requires thorough cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and materials within the affected area. Special attention to common use areas where nCoV can be easily spread through direct contact with others and where cross contamination may occur.

ServprOXIDE™ can be applied to surfaces with saturated towels or sponges, as well as by spraying or misting with a mechanical device, such as a trigger sprayer, pressure sprayer or ULV misting device. Only hard non-porous surfaces can be disinfected. Be sure to pay special attention to touch point areas. Porous surfaces such as carpeting can be sanitized per the labeled instructions.

Pre-clean:
• Apply ServprOXIDE™ to remove any bacterial biofilm, soil, and debris from surfaces.
• Wipe with clean towel or sponge.

Disinfection:
• Completely wet pre-cleaned surfaces with ServprOXIDE™ and allow to remain wet for 10 minutes to kill nCoV.
• Thoroughly clean affected areas.

• Disinfect area and objects surrounding the contamination with ServprOXIDE™

ABOUT 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (nCoV) A coronavirus is a kind of common virus that causes an infection in your nose, sinuses, or upper throat. Most coronaviruses infect animals, not people. However, rarely, these viruses can evolve to infect humans and spread from person to person. Most coronaviruses are not dangerous, causing only upper respiratory infection symptoms like a stuffy nose, cough, and sore throat. However, if a coronavirus infection spreads to the lower respiratory tract (the windpipe and lungs), it can cause pneumonia and be life threatening, especially in older people and people with weakened immune systems. There are some very serious types of coronaviruses, such as the SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and MERSassociated coronavirus (MERS-CoV). In early January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified a new serious type of coronavirus—the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).