

Principles of Environmental Cleaning with Megan Reilly Q&A – Wednesday 28 July 2021

Communique One – Thursday 29 July 2021

1. Question: How viable is SARS-CoV-2 in the environment?

COVID-19 can spread widely and quickly. From being in close contact with an infectious person (including in the 48 hours before they had symptoms) via direct contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze, or by touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have droplets from an infected person, and then touching your mouth or face.

- Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: implications for infection prevention precautions
<https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/transmission-of-sars-cov-2-implications-for-infection-prevention-precautions>

2. Question: Can SARS-CoV-2 be transmitted via contaminated surfaces and objects?

People may become infected with SARS-CoV-2 after touching surfaces that have been contaminated by the virus when touching their eyes, nose, or mouth without cleaning their hands.

- How long can the virus survive?
<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/health-medical/diseases/covid-19-research/how-long-the-virus-can-survive>

3. Question: Define the difference between a 2-step clean vs a 2-in-1 clean?

A two step clean defines using two separate products. The first step is cleaning the surfaces and removing dirt and grime. The second steps is using a disinfectant cleaning to remove all germs and bacteria on the surface.

A 2-in-1 clean is a product that incorporates both reducing cleaning time

- Information about cleaning and disinfection for health and residential care facilities
<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/12/coronavirus-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-health-and-residential-care-facilities-coronavirus-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-health-and-residential-care-fac.pdf>

4. Question: What is terminal cleaning?

Terminal is a word used to describe a method of cleaning that is needed when an infected patient has left the clinical area. Terminal cleaning is a different cleaning approach than daily cleaning.

- Hygiene and cleaning for the health workforce during COVID-19
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-the-health-and-aged-care-sector/hygiene-and-cleaning-for-the-health-workforce-during-covid-19>