

COVID-19 Decontamination Guidelines

- 1 | After transporting the patient, leave the rear doors of the transport vehicle open to allow time for sufficient air exchange. Consideration must be given to ensuring vehicle and equipment security if staff is not able to stay with the vehicle.
- 2 | The time to complete transfer of the patient to the receiving facility and complete all documentation should provide sufficient time for air changes.
- 3 | When cleaning the vehicle, EMS clinicians should wear gloves. A face shield or facemask and goggles should be worn only if splashes or sprays during cleaning are anticipated.
- 4 | Any visibly soiled surface must first be cleaned then decontaminated using an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant according to directions on the label. Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are recommended for use against COVID-19.
- 5 | Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly, to include adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use. Doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.
- 6 | Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for COVID-19 in health care settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.
- 7 | Clean and disinfect the vehicle in accordance with standard operating procedures. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls, work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant in accordance with the product label.
- 8 | Clean and disinfect reusable patient-care equipment before use on another patient, according to manufacturer's instructions.
- 9 | Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE and regulated medical waste.
- 10 | Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering used linen.
Avoid shaking the linen.
- 11 | Remove and dispose of contaminated PPE and perform hand hygiene prior to transporting patients.
Don clean PPE to handle the patient at the transport location.