



## CDC Guidance For Cleaning Transport Vehicles

Although the following information was described by the CDC as pertinent to an influenza pandemic, it has ongoing applicability. We previously described that fomites can spread influenza. Hand hygiene, cough etiquette, respiratory hygiene and appropriate personal protective equipments are important, but if we touch a cot handle that a patient sneezed on and rub our eyes or scratch our nose, we have the potential of infecting ourselves. If we reduce the number of virus particles on surfaces, we decrease the likelihood of hand transfer of the virus.

After we transport a patient with known or suspected novel H1N1 2009, it is recommended that after the patient is removed and prior to cleaning that the air within the vehicle be exhausted by opening the doors and the windows with the ventilation system running. Naturally, this should be done outdoors away from pedestrian traffic.

Routine cleaning measures should be used keeping the following in mind.

- Remember to clean non-patient-care areas of the vehicle using the manufacturer's guidelines.
- Be aware of indirect contamination in the driver's compartment. For example, the driver wears gloves that have been contaminated during patient care and wears them while driving, removes them after the call and then touches the steering wheel barehanded, then rubs his/her eyes.
- Wear non-sterile gloves while cleaning. Avoid the production of aerosols. Cleaning activities should be designated by policy. Periodic inspections should be performed to determine and document compliance.
- Clean frequently-touched surfaces that become

contaminated at first with detergent and water. Then, disinfect them using an EPA-registered disinfectant. Make sure that the surface is kept wet by the disinfectant for the full contact time specified in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions. Electronic medical equipment should be cleaned using the manufacturer's recommendations. More information is available at [www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/103107-cleaners.html](http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/103107-cleaners.html).

- Non-porous surfaces that aren't touched may be cleaned with detergent and water. Don't produce mists, aerosol or disperse dust.
- Small spills of bodily fluids can be cleaned with detergent and water then disinfected with the appropriate EPA approved agent.
- For large spills of bodily fluids, first remove visible organic matter, and then proceed as for small spills.
- Contaminated reusable patient care devices should be placed in biohazard bags marked as appropriate and cleaned/sterilized in compliance with the manufacturer's guidelines.
- After cleaning, remove gloves and dispose of them in compliance with State and local regulations.
- Immediately clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol based hand gel. Employees should be trained to remove PPE to prevent self-inoculations.
- More information at [www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/cleaning\\_ems.htm](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/cleaning_ems.htm).