

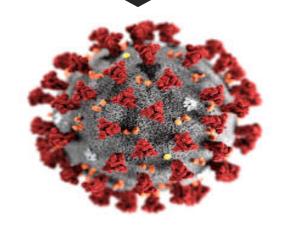
COVID-19 Infection Control

MARCH 2021





BACKGROUND



COVID-19 has brought the issue of infection control to the forefront and heightened awareness of infection control: good hand hygiene, social distancing, and the proper mask wearing. (covering the nose and mouth). Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 occurs primarily indoors between people less than 6 feet apart. When an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks droplets from their mouth or nose are released into the air. The droplets can come into contact with mucous membranes of the nose and mouth of persons close by, or inhaled into their lungs. Although most of the viral infections are transmitted by symptomatic patients, recent studies suggest that asymptomatic individuals with COVID-19 may also play a role in the spread of the disease. Health care workers, therefore, must take universal precautions to avoid contracting or transmitting the disease.

Monoplace chambers require the use of specific antiseptics to avoid damaging the acrylic shell. Most commercial biohazard-cleaning agents used to kill COVID-19 contain alcohol which degrades acrylic. Serena Group recommends cleaning the chamber with Sodium Hypochlorite Solution to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

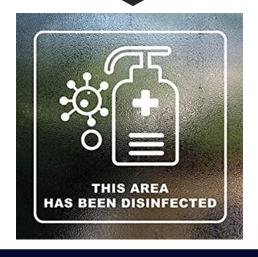


PROCEDURE

- Wear appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) (mask and eye protection).
- Place a fan near the open door of the chamber to ventilate the chamber throughout the duration of the cleansing.
- Clean all gross material with water with a 100 percent cotton towel. (water temperature must not exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Place all contaminated material in a biohazard bag.
- Using a clean 100 percent-cotton cloth, wipe area with disinfectant.
- Keep the surface moist for recommended time for product used, then let it air dry.
- After the area is dry, use a clean 100 percent-cotton towel moistened with water to rinse the treated area. Allow it to air-dry again.
 - Examine the internal surface of the chamber and buff dry.
- With the door open, continue to introduce air through the chamber until there is no detectable odor of cleaner or disinfectant or pressurize the chamber to 3 ATA and emergency decompress to surface to 'flash' the chamber.
- Once there are no detectable odors or visible contaminants, return the chamber to service.
- Wash hands



BEFORE PATIENTS ARRIVE



Prepare the clinic / HBO Room.

- Use universal precautions to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.
- Keep health department contact information readily available.
- Follow COVID-19 incidence in the community.
- Assess and restock supplies now and on a regular schedule.

Communicate with patients.

- Ask patients about COVID-19 symptoms during reminder calls.
- Post signs at entrances and in waiting areas about prevention actions.

Prepare the waiting area and patient rooms.

- Provide supplies—tissues, alcohol-based hand rub, soap at sinks, and trash cans.
- Place chairs 6 feet apart. Use barriers (like screens), if possible.
- If your office has toys, reading materials, or other communal objects, remove them or clean them regularly!



AFTER PATIENTS ARRIVE



Ask patients about COVID-19 symptoms.

- Provide patients with facemasks to cover their mouth and nose.
- Educate patients on proper facemask use.
- Limit non-patient visitors.
- Ask patents and visitors to wash their hands.

Separate sick patients with symptoms.

- Wear all appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE). gown, gloves, mask (n95 if available), face shield or eye protection.
- Allow patients to wait outside or in the car if they are medically able.
- Create separate spaces in waiting areas for sick and well patients.
- Place sick patients in a private room as quickly as possible.
- Wash hands often!



BEFORE PATIENTS LEAVE



- Provide at-home care instructions to patients with respiratory issues or other symptoms. Consider telehealth options for follow up.
- After patients leave, clean frequently touched surfaces using EPAregistered disinfectants—all dressing room counters, beds, seating.
- Ask patient to wash hands.
- Wash hand after every patient contact.



COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sunlight, humidity, and the type of surface. It is possible to contract COVID-19 after touching an infected surface virus and transmitting the virus to the mouth or eyes.



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



COVID-19 infected patients may exhibit a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.



This list does not include all possible symptoms.







Question: All disinfectants are safe to use on the chamber acrylic? True or False.

Answer: False.

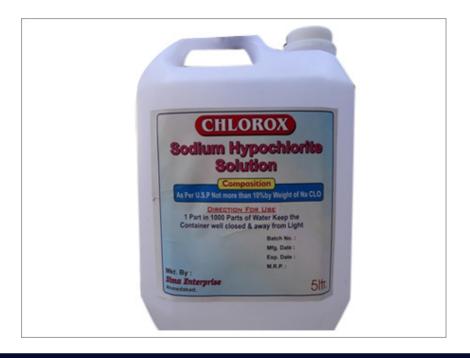






Question: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the use of Sodium Hypochlorite for durable surfaces contaminated with?

Answer: COVID-19.







Question: While alcohol is adequate to kill many pathogens but causes damage to the _____ of hyperbaric chambers.

Answer: Acrylic Shell.





Question: Appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) should be donned before cleaning interior of chamber? True or False.

Answer: True.







Question: COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface? True or False.

Answer: True.





Question: It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object? True or False.

Answer: True.





Question: The minimum time to wash your hands is ____?___seconds.

Answer: 20 seconds.









- Tim Mayhugh, National Safety Director
- tmayhugh@serenagroups.com
- C. 814-706-9021

