

Routine Disinfection Practices

Purpose: To describe the procedure researchers are to use for routine work area disinfection.

Scope: Applicable researchers in buildings of the UTHSC Memphis Campus.

Applicability: Researchers on the UTHSC Memphis campus until notified otherwise.

Procedure:

1. Researchers working on the UTHSC Memphis campus must routinely disinfect work areas.
2. Laboratory research work areas must be disinfected according to standard practices for the biosafety level at which they are working.
 - Biosafety Level 1 (BSL1): Disinfect laboratory work surfaces at least daily.
 - Biosafety Level 2 (BSL2): Disinfect laboratory work areas immediately after handling biohazardous materials at BSL2. As per the UTHSC IBC, alcohol is not a suitable surface disinfectant while working at BSL2. Researchers must use a bleach solution (10%), Spor-Klenz or another suitable disinfectant as directed by the Principal Investigator.
3. Non-laboratory work areas (e.g. office space) must be disinfected at least at the start of the work shift and prior to leaving work at the end of the shift. Work areas must be disinfected prior to the space being occupied by another user. Additional disinfection should be performed when the researcher has concerns about potential contamination (e.g. after touching doorknobs or other frequently touched surfaces).
4. Non-porous surfaces within a 6-foot (2 meter) radius each individual's work area must be disinfected. Facilitate work surface disinfection by minimizing the storage of non-porous materials such as paper and cardboard on work surfaces. Additional surfaces to be disinfected include but are not limited to desktops, computer keyboards and mice, telephones and other frequently contacted items.

University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Research Safety Affairs Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
COVID-19 SOP04 – Routine Disinfection Practices

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5. Work area disinfection must be performed with [an EPA-registered disinfectant](#), soap and water or 70% ethanol solution. Be sure to allow the appropriate contact time for the disinfectant that you are using. (Ultra Clorox Brand Regular Bleach has a contact time of 5 minutes.)