



CBC'S LIST OF COVID-19 FIGHTING PRODUCTS **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

COVID-19

What type of virus is COVID-19?

Viruses can be generally categorized in three groups by virus structure.¹ This affects the effectiveness of disinfectants in killing the viruses.

- Enveloped viruses are easiest to kill. (An example is Influenza A Virus.)
- Large, non-enveloped viruses are more difficult to kill. (An example is Rotavirus.)
- Small, non-enveloped viruses are hardest to kill. (Examples are Rhinovirus and Norovirus.)

Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product.

How do we know a virus is harder or easier to kill?

Viruses can be separated into classes based on structure, for example in simplest form; enveloped (e.g. COVID-19) and non-enveloped (e.g. Norovirus). Years of research and testing have shown that enveloped viruses are easier to kill using disinfectants than non-enveloped viruses and so a hierarchy has been developed.

How can a company claim that a specific product should be used effectively during the COVID-19 outbreak?

During an outbreak of a new virus like COVID-19, no products exist on the market that can make claims to kill the virus. This is due to the simple fact that the virus was not available to test, and it can take more than 1 year to get a viral claim approved by a regulatory agency. For this reason, the U.S. enacted a 'hierarchy-based' policy. This means that if a company's product has been found to be effective against harder to kill viruses, it is likely to kill a virus like COVID-19.

A product that is likely to provide the greatest protection to you from COVID-19 will have claims against at least one non-enveloped virus such as Norovirus, Feline Calicivirus, Poliovirus, Rhinovirus or Reovirus.

¹ E.H. Spaulding **Chemical disinfection and antisepsis in the hospital**

J Hosp Res, 9 (1957), pp. 5-31.

What about a claim against Human Coronavirus? Won't that be enough for a product to be Effective Against COVID-19?

Claims against Human Coronavirus do not meet the criteria for hierarchy guidance (see above) as there are no data to prove COVID-19 has the same tolerance to disinfectants as typical Human Coronaviruses tested for efficacy. The hierarchy approach is protective of public health by ensuring an extra layer of efficacy until research can be initiated. This was the same approach used for Ebola.

CBC Coronavirus-Fighting Products List

Can CBC verify the effectiveness of "Product X" on COVID-19?

The CBC cannot make a determination of the effectiveness of Product X in fighting pathogens like COVID-19. In order to make a claim that the product should be effective against COVID-19, the manufacturer of the product must have a pesticide registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and must comply with EPA's *Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides* for antimicrobial products and provide such documentation to the CBC.

As stated by EPA under its *Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides*, the following criteria determine if an EPA-registered disinfectant product is eligible to make a claim against COVID-19:

1. The product is an EPA-registered, hospital/healthcare or broad-spectrum disinfectant with directions for use on hard, porous or non-porous surfaces; and
2. The currently accepted product label (from an EPA registered product as described above) has a disinfectant efficacy claims against one large or one small non-enveloped virus.

CBC has not listed any product without first reviewing the product's Master Label, which indicates EPA's prior approval of the emerging pathogens qualification.

How do I know that a US company's claim is legitimate?

Any company marketing hard-surface disinfectant products in the US for use during the COVID-19 outbreak **MUST** have an EPA-approved Emerging Pathogen Claim. This claim cannot be found on the commercial label as it is only triggered during an outbreak. However it can be found on the master label on EPA's website <https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1>.

Can you add X hand sanitizing wipes to the CBC list of Coronavirus-Fighting Products?

Hand wipes, soaps and gels are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, not the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CBC's compilation of products are only those registered by EPA for use on hard surfaces (e.g., countertops, floors, fixtures, etc.) not the human body.

Viral claims on hand hygiene products (soaps, wipes, hand sanitizers) are not currently allowed by FDA.

Do you have to be a member of the Center for Biocide Chemistries to list a product on the CBC list of Coronavirus-Fighting Products?

As a public service, CBC is offering listing to both member and non-member companies. To list a product, the manufacturer must be prepared to provide copies of the product's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's approved Master Label.



What requirements are necessary in order to have my companies product listed on the CBC Coronavirus-Fighting Products List?

Per the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides*, the following criteria determine if an EPA-registered disinfectant product is eligible to make a claim against COVID-19:

1. The product is an EPA-registered, hospital/healthcare or broad-spectrum disinfectant with directions for use on hard, porous or non-porous surfaces.
2. The currently accepted product label (from an EPA registered product as described above) should have disinfectant efficacy claims against the following viral pathogen groupings: one large or one small non-enveloped virus.

CBC has not listed any product without first reviewing the product's Master Label, which indicates EPA's prior approval of the emerging pathogens qualification.

A Master Label *must* be provided to the CBC in order for the product to be included on the CBC Coronavirus-Fighting Products List.

X product has an EPA approved Master Label for the emerging pathogen claim, so why isn't X product listed on the CBC list of Coronavirus-Fighting Products?

Submissions to CBC are voluntary. A product can only be listed if the manufacturer of the product meets the criteria referenced in the question and answer above.

CBC did not contact any company directly to include product(s).

If your companies' product(s) qualifies, please contact Ms. Komal K. Jain at Komal_Jain@americanchemistry.com, and the necessary steps will be taken to verify and add your companies' product to the CBC list.

How should we use a listed product?

The instructions for use on the product label should be followed. If there are use directions for enveloped viruses, follow those directions. EPA recommends that if the directions for use for viruses/virucidal activity list different contact times or dilutions, use the longest contact time or most concentrated solution [See <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>].

What should you look for in a cleaning product if you're aiming to prevent the spread of coronavirus?

If you are aiming to help stop the spread of COVID-19, a list of products presumed by EPA to be effective is available from the Center for Biocide Chemistries' (CBC) List of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products. These products contain antimicrobials that kill many disease-causing viruses and other microbes. They have been tested against hundreds of pathogens, such as norovirus and MERS, and based on those results, EPA expects them to be effective against the virus that causes COVID-19. Each of these products on the list have been tested to stop the spread of pathogens from hard surfaces and the manufacturer states that it is compliant with EPA's "emerging viral pathogen" guidance for antimicrobial products. The public should feel confident that the products included on CBC's list are available to help protect themselves from the spread of the novel coronavirus.



Other Lists

On March 4th, EPA issued a “List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2”. How does this differ from the CBC List?

The lists should be consistent with one another, but you will likely find a greater number of products on the CBC list because we have been compiling the list for a longer period of time.

Be assured that CBC and EPA are using the same criteria for listing; as set forth by EPA under its *Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides*, the following criteria determines if a disinfectant product is eligible to make a claim against COVID-19:

- The product is an EPA-registered, hospital/healthcare or broad-spectrum disinfectant with directions for use on hard, porous or non-porous surfaces; and
- The currently accepted product label (from an EPA registered product as described above) has a disinfectant efficacy claims against a non-enveloped virus.

CBC has not listed any product without first reviewing the product’s Master Label to verify that the two criteria above are met and that the registrant had prior EPA approval to make a claim against an emerging pathogen.

Is there a list of products used for coronavirus cleaning in schools?

A list of coronavirus-fighting products can be accessed at <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>. CBC suggests selecting a product from this list and follow label instructions on use.

Good Practices

What are steps that an average American can take to make sure their homes/offices are disinfected, sanitized, etc., to protect from COVID-19?

Antimicrobials, also known as biocides, prevent the growth and spread of unwanted microbes. We rely on a class of antimicrobial products known as disinfectants to kill many disease-causing viruses, [like COVID-19](#).

First, it is critical that people understand the difference between cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing – there are distinct differences.² “Cleaning” removes dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects but it does not *kill* germs. “Sanitizing” lowers the number of germs on a surface or object by reducing the germs to levels considered safe by public health standards or requirements. “Disinfecting” kills germs by using antimicrobials directly on surfaces and objects.

Additional tips for keeping healthy include:

- Use antimicrobials on highly-touched surfaces in your home. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19. CDC recommends a thorough disinfection of sinks, toilets, doorknobs, and other hard surfaces that people frequently touch. Also, keep in mind that [germs and bacteria can hide in many places](#). Use a disinfectant on your countertops, sinks, cabinets, and appliance surfaces, and all handles or drawer pulls. And finally, everyone should wash your hands regularly with soap and water.

² See e.g., <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>.

March 5, 2020

Page 5

- Use antimicrobials on highly-touched surfaces in your office. No one wants to make a coworker ill, so use of antimicrobial products will disinfect equipment like computer keyboards, staplers, and desks.
- Use antimicrobials in highly-populated areas. Use antimicrobials to disinfect armrests, seats, and other places while traveling on airplanes, trains and automobiles. Trapped in close quarters with strangers is one of the fastest ways to spread viruses or bacterial infections.

For more tips, visit GoodChemistryLivesHere.com

Want further information on the COVID-19 outbreak? Additional information linked below:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://waterandhealth.org/disinfect/public-health/coronavirus-what-is-it-and-how-can-we-prevent-its-spread/>
- <https://waterandhealth.org/disinfect/preventing-infection/will-wearing-a-face-mask-protect-against-coronavirus/>