



NEST360°

Newborn Essential Solutions and Technologies

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: Resources Compiled by NEST for Use in Hospital-Based Newborn Care

Last updated on 15 May, 2020

USE INSTRUCTIONS

Intended use of this guidance is to aid clinicians and hospital staff to manage COVID-19 response efforts in newborn care units in sub-Saharan Africa. The guidance material includes a combination of NEST-developed and compiled documents from various organizations and institutions. It also links to further information developed by national bodies. To view the complete document see the [NEST360° COVID-19 Resources](#) webpage.

DISCLAIMER: COVID-19 guidance continues to evolve rapidly. We intend to update the material as new resources become available and will work with others to bring together the best available information. As such, we include a qualifier of “Last Updated on [date]” as reference. We encourage use of this guidance alongside local operational policies developed by your institutions and organizations.

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STANDARD DISINFECTION PRODUCTS

Most standard disinfection products are effective against coronavirus on hard, nonporous surfaces, including (but not limited to):

- Sodium hypochlorite 0.5%
- Hydrogen peroxide 2.5%
- Isopropyl alcohol 70%
- Ethanol 70%
- Glutaraldehyde 2.5%

Following the disinfectant manufacturer recommendations for disinfection preparation for adenovirus, norovirus, hepatitis A, or poliovirus.

Devices should be cleaned thoroughly according to manufacturer recommendations and hospital protocols. Cleaning personnel should wear PPE if there is suspected exposure to COVID-19. Before application of the disinfecting agent, visible contamination should be rinsed or wiped; this can be done with disinfectant or soap and water. Frequency and quality of cleaning should be increased. Environmental cleaning (incl. door handles, keyboards, cabinets, and other high-touch surfaces) should also be undertaken to prevent transmission.

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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Respiratory equipment may pose an increased risk due to aerosolized virus

- Suction pumps have an antibacterial hydrophobic filter (pore size 0.027 microns, bacterial and viral filtration efficiency 99.9999%)

Cleaning PPE (Porous or Soft Surfaces)

- If PPE is reusable, it can be cleaned according to manufacturer specifications.
- Disposable masks may be disinfected using UV-C treatment
 - UV-C light range is 200-280nm, and covers peak germicidal range of UV light
 - All soiled surfaces must be exposed to UV light for disinfection
- Laundered items should be washed at high heat (90°C) or with a disinfecting agent.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Disposables

- Disposables should be treated as infectious material and disposed of accordingly.
- Disposable covers for equipment can reduce cleaning time.

Devices

- Unnecessary or excess device accessories should be removed from the room and stored until needed.
- Dedicated devices for known or suspected COVID-19 cases should be used, when possible.

Bed Spacing

- All patient beds should be placed at least one meter apart, regardless of whether patients are suspected to have COVID-19 or not.

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