

Appendix 16: Decontamination in the Community

The important factor is to ensure the Healthcare worker or the affected family understand which body fluids are thought to be infectious. They should be familiar with the products which are suitable for decontamination of the environment and equipment. It is important to ensure that the decontamination process including the disinfectant used on any item of healthcare equipment is in keeping with the manufacturers instructions.

Healthcare Premises

Standard infection control precautions (including careful attention to hand hygiene with the use of alcohol hand rubs where available) should be taken by all community healthcare workers who come into close contact (see below) with a possible case of SARS,

Protective clothing including gloves, gowns/aprons, eye protection, masks or respirators should be used when in direct contact with the patient or the body fluids of the patient. This waste should be disposed of immediately after use as clinical waste, according to local infection control policy.

Standard precautions should be used when handling any clinical waste, which must be placed in leak-proof biohazard bags or containers and disposed of safely, following the local clinical waste policy.

Spillages: Protective clothing should be worn to clean up blood and body fluid spillages (esp respiratory secretions, urine or faeces). Spillages should be mopped up using paper towels first and the area cleaned with general-purpose detergent and warm water, and then disinfected using a chlorine releasing agent 10,000ppm available chlorine (household bleach diluted to 1-10).

Environmental surfaces should be cleaned with general-purpose detergent and warm water, and then dried using disposable paper towels. If surfaces are contaminated disinfect using a chlorine releasing agent 1000ppm available chlorine (household bleach diluted to 1-100).

Decontamination of the 'isolation room' in Primary Care

The room selected for isolation of a SARS patient should be minimally furnished and devoid of unnecessary equipment and clutter.

After use with a suspect/probable SARS case clean as above all horizontal and contaminated surfaces (i.e. with general-purpose detergent and warm water, followed by a chlorine releasing agent 1000ppm available chlorine (household bleach diluted to 1-100)).

Single use equipments should be used in the care of this patient where possible. Where reusable items have been used these must be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with local procedures (ref Infection Control Manual) and in accordance with manufacturers instructions.

In Patient's /Contact's own Home

Patients in isolation are regarded as infectious and the guidance below, therefore, applies to them. In contrast someone who has simply been placed in quarantine is regarded as non-infectious unless and until they become symptomatic at which time they would contact their GP and assessment made as to whether or not they have become a case. If they have they then move from being in quarantine to isolation. Therefore, the guidance only applies to those who are in isolation and not to those in quarantine.

The patient should be advised to cough/sneeze into a paper tissue and dispose of this safely into the toilet/or a plastic bag tied off at the top, prior to placing it in the yellow waste bag provided.

Hands of the patient should be frequently washed particularly after contact with body fluids (eg respiratory secretions, urine or faeces).

Hands of close contacts should be thoroughly washed before and after contact with a patient and after activities that are likely to cause contamination.

Blood and body fluid spillages should be mopped up using paper towels first, then the area cleaned with general-purpose detergent and warm water and disinfected using household bleach diluted to 1 in 10 with cold water. Disposable gloves should be worn by non-infected family/household members carrying out this task.

After daily cleaning in the normal way, disinfect the surfaces in the room the person in isolation is living in and the bathroom. A bottle of Milton and instructions have been provided for this disinfection.

Disposable cleaning cloths x 20 are provided to allow you to use one cloth in each of the two rooms and then discard at the end of each day.

Milton is provided for surface disinfection. This is a bleach like product and may stain materials or discolour surfaces so always use with care and as described in the manufacturers instructions enclosed/on the bottle. Milton should be diluted 1 part Milton to 9 parts water.

Put down the lid of the toilet before flushing and ensure hands are washed before leaving the bathroom.

General

Laundry in the home should be washed on the highest temperature recommended for the fabric. Preferably washing the patients clothes etc separately from the rest of the families washing.

Eating utensils should not be shared but can be used by others after routine cleaning either in a dishwasher or with hot water and washing-up liquid.