

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are general guidelines for cleaning or maintaining EMS transport vehicles and equipment after transporting a suspected or confirmed swine-origin influenza patient. This guidance may be modified or additional procedures may be recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as new information becomes available.

Routine cleaning with soap or detergent and water to remove soil and organic matter, followed by the proper use of disinfectants, are the basic components of effective environmental management of influenza. Reducing the number of influenza virus particles on a surface through these steps can reduce the chances of hand transfer of virus. Influenza viruses are susceptible to inactivation by a number of chemical disinfectants readily available from consumer and commercial sources.

After the patient has been removed and prior to cleaning, the air within the vehicle may be exhausted by opening the doors and windows of the vehicle while the ventilation system is running. This should be done outdoors and away from pedestrian traffic. Routine cleaning methods should be employed throughout the vehicle and on non-disposable equipment.

Assure adequate cleaning of the equipment and vehicles after each transport. This cleaning should minimally include:

- Use of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectant;

- Disinfecting any reusable equipment used on the patient as per the manufacturer's instructions;

- Frequently touched surfaces of the vehicle both within the patient care compartment and the driver's compartment.

- Visibly soiled surfaces.

For additional detailed guidance on ambulance decontamination EMS personnel may refer to "[Interim Guidance for Cleaning Emergency Medical Service Transport Vehicles during an Influenza Pandemic](#)".

### References

Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Infection, August 5, 2009 5:00PM ET