PERFORMING A PROPER RISK ASSESSMENT IN SIX STEPS

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC), a division of ISSA, recommends following a strict protocol when responding to a biorisk hazard, such as cleaning and disinfecting for coronavirus.

The GBAC protocol includes six steps:

1. **Incident Site Risk Assessment**
   - When you receive a call to clean and disinfect a space, gather as much information as possible, including:
     - **Type of Event**: Outbreak, crime and trauma scene, preventative disinfection, etc.
     - **Potential hazards**: Infectious agents, biological, chemical, or physical.
     - **Equipment and products needed**: Personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfecting products.
   - Then, determine your risk mitigation plan, document key details, and communicate the plan to all involved.

2. **Pre-Disinfect**
   - In situations that involve visible contaminations such as filth, bodily fluids, etc., apply a disinfectant that is appropriate for the infectious agent.

3. **Load Reduction**
   - Remove and properly dispose of any biocontamination.

4. **Forensic Cleaning**
   - GBAC Forensic Cleaning® is the removal of biological contaminants to prepare surfaces both vertical and horizontal for Professional Disinfection.
   - Use microfiber towels or cloths to clean all vertical and horizontal surfaces.
   - Repeat with a detergent cleaning solution.
   - Complete a post-bio test.

5. **Final Disinfection**
   - Thoroughly spray appropriate disinfectant on all predetermined surfaces and leave wet for the duration of the disinfectant’s dwell time.

6. **Post Site Assessment**
   - Conduct a post visual inspection to confirm the job was met and complete all operation documentation.

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC), a division of ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association, provides training, guidance, accreditation, certification, crisis management assistance and leadership to help organizations prepare, respond, and recover from infectious disease outbreaks and biohazard situations. Its GBAC STAR™ accreditation program is the cleaning industry’s only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation for facilities of all sizes and types. For more information, visit www.gbac.org.