



Date: October 31, 2014

To: ISSA Members

Subject: ISSA Statement on the 2014 Ebola Outbreak

The Ebola outbreak has initiated a global response and federal, public and private organizations have mobilized to preserve our nation's public health. Maintaining a clean and sanitary environment is critical to reducing the transmission of Ebola and other infectious diseases, such as EV-D68.

ISSA is the leader in the commercial cleaning industry dedicated to educating you about best practices in cleaning and the critical role a clean and sanitary environment plays in stopping the spread of infectious disease. As your association, ISSA is committed to ensuring that you and your customers have access to this vital information, including the CDC's guidelines for environmental control, via our website at issa.com.

For immediate questions about cleaning in high-risk scenarios, contact: Bill Balek, ISSA director of legislative affairs at bill@issa.com or by phone, (800) 225-4772 (North America) or (847) 982-0800.

For more useful resources on effective cleaning procedures please visit issa.com/pandemic.



Date: October 31, 2014

To: ISSA Members

Subject: ISSA Key Messaging on Infectious Disease Outbreaks

As the leading trade association for the cleaning industry worldwide, ISSA empowers members with cleaning resources and best practices needed to prevent the spread of Ebola and other infectious diseases, such as the Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) that has hospitalized hundreds of children across the U.S. this fall. ISSA has provided the following key messages to use when communicating with staff, customers, and the community at large regarding the role cleaning can play in reducing their risk of infection.

Key Messages

ISSA's Overarching Message on the 2014 Ebola Outbreak

ISSA is the global leader in the commercial cleaning industry dedicated to educating its members and the public about best practices in cleaning to stop the spread of infectious diseases, such as Ebola and EV-D68.

Effective Cleaning Leads to Prevention

Maintaining a clean and sanitary environment is critical to reducing the transmission of infectious diseases such as Ebola and EV-D68. In doing so, proper cleaning can lead to substantial savings for any organization in terms of reduced absenteeism, higher worker productivity, and the trust of their building occupants and customers.

Cleaning in Public Environments

Cleaning personnel in institutional and commercial facilities, such as schools, airports or hospitals, should be on high alert.

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Be Prepared

Understanding and implementing the proper cleaning and disinfection protocols on a consistent basis is critical to reducing the risk of spreading harmful bacteria and viruses that lead to outbreaks. For example, scientific studies cited in the *ISSA Value of Clean* paper demonstrate that an effective cleaning regimen can reduce the chance of catching the common cold and influenza by as much as 80 percent. To access the paper, visit issa.com/valuetips.

Managers and supervisors of cleaning operations not only are responsible for the safety and well-being of building occupants, but also that of their cleaning workers. ISSA stresses the importance of keeping cleaning workers well informed during times of local infectious outbreaks. Managers should reassure their employees that proper cleaning, disinfection, bloodborne pathogen and personal protective equipment procedures not only help them protect public health, but also reduce their own risk of infection when undertaking these activities.

For more useful resources on effective cleaning procedures please visit issa.com/pandemic.

Date: October 31, 2014

To: ISSA Members

Subject: ISSA Fact Sheet on Infectious Disease Outbreaks

Ebola

About Ebola

Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a severe, often fatal illness in humans caused when the Ebola virus enters a body through broken skin or mucous membranes.

Transmission of Ebola Virus

Human-to-human transmission occurs only with direct contact (via broken skin or mucous membranes) with the bodily fluids of a symptomatic person infected with the virus. Ebola cannot be spread via air or water.

Humans can also be infected through close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals, such as monkeys, fruit bats, antelope, and porcupines found in the African rainforest.

Cleaning to Prevent Ebola Exposure

The virus can only be transmitted via direct or close contact, thus health-care workers or those caring for infected individuals are at the greatest risk of infection.

ISSA recommends that health-care facilities follow the CDC guidelines for environmental control in hospitals and other health-care facilities as part of the care of patients who are under investigation, or with probable or confirmed Ebola virus infections. The guidelines are summarized below:

1. **Dress in personal protective equipment (PPE).** Environmental services staff should wear recommended PPE to protect against direct skin and mucous membrane exposure. Recommendations include wearing heavy-duty rubber gloves, fluid impermeable gowns, goggles or face shields, and protective shoe coverings when cleaning an infected environment.
2. **Clean and disinfect environmental surfaces.** Clean and disinfect environmental surfaces with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant with a label claim for a non enveloped virus (e.g., norovirus, rhinovirus, poliovirus, adenovirus). In rooms and other areas where patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus infection have been, be sure to immediately clean and disinfect any visible surface contamination from blood or other body fluids that may contain Ebola, consistent with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.
3. **Avoid contamination of reusable porous surfaces that cannot be made single use.** Use only a mattress and pillow with plastic or other covering that fluids cannot penetrate. Do not place patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus infection in carpeted rooms, and remove all upholstered furniture and decorative curtains from patient rooms before use.
4. **Routine cleaning and disinfection of the PPE doffing area.** Routine cleaning of the PPE doffing area should be performed at least once per day and after the doffing of grossly contaminated PPE.
5. **Contaminated textiles.** To reduce exposure among staff to potentially contaminated textiles (cloth products) while laundering, discard all linens, non fluid-impermeable pillows or mattresses, and textile privacy curtains into the waste stream and dispose of appropriately.

- 6. Infectious waste.** The Ebola virus is classified as a Category A infectious substance and regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR, 49 C.F.R., Parts 171-180). Any item transported off-site for disposal that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with a Category A infectious substance must be packaged and transported in accordance with the HMR.

ISSA encourages cleaning professionals to refer to the CDC for more detailed information on Ebola decontamination in a health-care setting. For non health-care settings, ISSA recommends cleaning professionals follow the OSHA guidelines for cleaning and decontamination of Ebola on surfaces. It is important to remember that Ebola spreads only through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected individual and objects such as syringes that have been contaminated with the virus.

For more useful resources on effective cleaning procedures please visit issa.com/pandemic.

Advice for International Cleaning Professionals

Cleaning professionals located outside of the U.S. should refer to their respective local governmental recommendations for the proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures associated with Ebola, Enterovirus or other infectious diseases. They also can refer to the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendations for cleaning and disinfection practices and regulations related to containment of infectious diseases.

Enterovirus D68 and Norovirus

About Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68)

EV-D68 is a virus that causes mild to severe respiratory illness. Every year, different strains of Enterovirus cause millions of respiratory illnesses in children. So far this fall, the U.S. has witnessed an unusually high number of EV-D68 cases. This strain of virus primarily affects children and is most devastating in children with asthma or a history of wheezing. It is transmitted through respiratory secretions, spreading when an infected individual coughs, sneezes or touches surfaces that are then touched by others.

About Norovirus

Norovirus is the most common gastrointestinal disease in the U.S., leading to approximately 20 million illnesses, more than 50,000 hospitalizations and more than 500 deaths each year. It is highly contagious. The virus is transmitted by accidentally ingesting the virus, either by touching a contaminated surface and then your mouth, or consuming contaminated food or drink.

Regardless of geographic location, ISSA recommends that routine cleaning and disinfection, as well as a good hand hygiene program, are the first steps in preventing the spread of any infectious disease.

Defend Against EV-D68, Norovirus

Cleaning and proper hygiene are the best defenses in preventing the spread of norovirus and EV-D68. The transmission of these, and other infectious agents, can be significantly reduced by implementing the following:

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (i.e., door knobs, counter tops, hand rails, water fountains, desks, etc.).
- Use an appropriate disinfectant. For EV-D68, select a disinfectant that is effective against non-enveloped viruses (e.g., norovirus, poliovirus, rhinovirus); for norovirus, select products that are labeled as effective against the virus.
- Wash hands often with soap and running water or hand sanitizer if running water is not available.