

# SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

## Standard Operating Procedures

**40.03.08**  
INFECTION CONTROL  
PROGRAM, RECOMMENDED  
PROCEDURES FOR  
DECONTAMINATION



Adopted: 12/20/16  
Reviewed: 11/18/21  
Revised: 11/18/21

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan J. Bal".

**Purpose:** To address recommended methods for the decontamination of re-usable or multi-use patient care equipment.

**References:** N/A

**Procedure:**

1. These are recommendations and each agency should be aware that there are special considerations for certain items.
2. In all cases where questions exist, manufacturers should be consulted to ensure that products will not be adversely affected by the decontamination process.
3. Definitions.
  - a) Sterilization.
    - i. This process destroys all microorganisms including highly resistant bacterial spores.
    - ii. The process is utilized on instruments that penetrate the skin or contact normally sterile areas of the body during invasive procedures.
    - iii. Standard methods of sterilization include use of autoclaves, gas processes utilizing ethylene oxide, or immersion in an EPA approved sterilizing agent for six to ten hours.
  - b) High Level Disinfection.
    - i. This process destroys all microorganisms except large number of bacterial spores.
    - ii. The process is utilized to disinfect reusable equipment that has contacted mucous membranes.
    - iii. Methods of high level disinfection are: hot water pasteurization in water that is 176° to 212° F for 30 minutes or immersion in an EPA approved sterilizing agent for 10 to 45 minutes.
  - c) Intermediate Disinfection.
    - i. This process destroys tuberculosis bacteria, vegetative bacteria, most viruses and fungi, but not bacterial spores.
    - ii. The process is utilized for surfaces that only contact intact skin and have been visibly contaminated with body fluids.
    - iii. Methods of intermediate levels of disinfection include: wiping with an EPA registered disinfectant/chemical germicide that kills tuberculocidal activity, wiping with a commercially available hard

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surface germicide, or wiping with a 1:100 chlorine bleach to water solution.

d) Low Level Disinfection.

- i. This process destroys most bacteria, some viruses and fungi, but not tuberculosis bacteria, or bacterial spores.
  - ii. This process is utilized for routine cleaning or removal of soiling when no body fluids are visible.
  - iii. The method of low level disinfection is wiping with an EPA registered hospital disinfectant.
4. Items that have visible contamination with blood require a higher level of disinfection than if blood is not present.
5. Always check with equipment manufacturer to verify the decontamination procedure will not damage equipment.

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<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE</b>
Airway Bag	High level disinfection
Airways-Nasopharyngeal	Disposal
Airways-Oropharyngeal	Disposal
Antishock Trousers (M.A.S.T.)	High level disinfection
Backboards	Intermediate level disinfection
Bedpans	Disposal
Bite Blocks	Disposal
BP Cuff-Rubber bladder & Tubes	Low level disinfection
BP Cuff-Cloth cover	Low level disinfection
BP Cuff- sphygmomanometer	Low level disinfection
Bulb Syringe	Disposal
Cervical Collars	Disposal
Cold Packs	Disposal
COVID-19 Suit (FIRE DEX)	High level disinfection
Dressings	Disposal
Drug Box	Low level disinfection
Drug Containers	Low level disinfection
Emesis Basin	Disposal
Endotracheal Tubes	Disposal
EOA-Mask	Disposal
EOA-Tube	Disposal
Hot Packs	Disposal

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<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE</b>
IV Poles	Low level disinfection
Laryngoscope-Blade	High level disinfection
Laryngoscope-Handle	Low level disinfection
Magill Forceps	Sterilization
ECG Monitor, Defibrillator, paddles, lead wires, etc.	Low level disinfection
Needles and Syringes	Disposal in an approved sharps container; do not bend, break or otherwise manipulate.
Other electronic equipment (pulse oximeter)	Intermediate to low level of disinfection
Oxygen extension tubing	Disposal
Oxygen face masks-ALL	Disposal
Oxygen nasal cannula	Disposal
Oxygen flow meter	Low level of disinfection
Oxygen-Demand Valve hose	High level disinfection
Oxygen-Demand Valve masks	Disposal
Oxygen-Demand valve	High level disinfection
Oxygen regulators	Low level disinfection
Oxygen tanks	Low level disinfection
Penlights	Low level disinfection
Personal equipment (belts, holsters, flashlights, etc.)	Low level disinfection

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<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE</b>
Pillows	Low level disinfection
Pillow Case	Disposal
Stretcher Sheets	Disposal
Pocket Masks	Disposal
Restraint Belts	Washing or low level disinfection
Resuscitator-Bag Valve	Disposal or High level disinfection
Resuscitator-Mask	Disposal or High level disinfection
Resuscitator-Valve	Disposal or High level disinfection
Headbed II Restraint System	Disposal
Scissors	Low level disinfection
Splints-metal	Intermediate level disinfection
Splints-Vacuum or Air	Intermediate level disinfection
Stethoscope	Low level disinfection
Ambulance stretcher	Intermediate level disinfection
Scoop Stretcher	Intermediate level disinfection
Suction-Bottle liner or V-Vac Bottle	Disposal
Suction collection container	High level disinfection
Suction tubing	Disposal
Suction unit-Portable or V-Vac unit	Low level disinfection

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EQUIPMENT	DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE
Tongue Blades	Disposal
Trauma Bag/ Box	Low level disinfection
Urinals	Disposal

6. Uniform Decontamination.

a) Grossly contaminated clothing

- i. Clothing that has visible blood and/or body fluid stains should be removed as soon as possible and placed in a bag so as to isolate the contaminated clothing from other clean areas.

7. Steps for Laundering Clothing.

a) Presoak.

- i. Soak uniforms in a solution of hot water and detergent to remove organic matter.
- ii. Dispose of the presoak water as contaminated water.
- iii. Rinse items with clean water before laundering.

b) Laundering.

- i. Wash uniforms according to the manufacturer's recommendations using a solution of hot water and detergent.
- ii. Use chlorine bleach on uniforms only if recommended by the uniform manufacturer.
- iii. Machine drying will also help decontaminate the items being laundered.
- iv. Uniforms should be washed separately from other clothing to insure against cross contamination.

c) Post Laundering.

- i. After washing uniform clothing, wipe the washing machine and dryer lids with bleach solution (1:100).
- ii. Run a cycle of the washing machine with a 1:100 bleach water solution to further disinfect the equipment.