



# Equipment Decontamination Guidance

June 2022

## General Principles

There are a wide number of infectious diseases that team members and casualties should be routinely protected from which can be transferred by droplets or bodily fluids.

Patient Care Equipment should be single-use items where practicable

Reusable equipment must be cleaned and decontaminated:

- After patient contact
- After blood / body fluid contamination
- At regular intervals as part of routine cleaning

Decontamination of equipment involves 2 steps:

### 1. Clean

Wash off any physical dirt/debris, including blood, with clean water or wash according to the manufacturer's guidelines (ensure person washing wears PPE)

### 2a. Disinfection

- A combined detergent / disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 ppm of available chlorine

OR

- General purpose neutral detergent in a solution of warm water followed by a disinfectant solution of 1000 ppm chlorine.

### 2b. Quarantine

If unable to disinfect due to the manufacturer's advice against the use of disinfectant products, then a period of quarantine can be used after washing. The length of quarantine is very variable depending on organism, level of contamination, ambient temperature etc.

**Respiratory and Gastrointestinal Viruses** – 48-72 hours will be sufficient for the majority of these viruses

**Blood Borne Viruses (Hep B, Hep C, HIV)** – 7 days – these can survive in dried blood up to 7 days



## Guidance

### Contamination risk stratification

- **high risk:** equipment in close proximity or contact with casualty / individual / bodily fluids
- **low risk:** equipment not in close proximity or contact with casualty / individual

<p><b>LOW RISK</b> (equipment not in close proximity or contact with casualty / individual)</p>	<p><b>HIGH RISK</b> (equipment in close proximity or contact with casualty / individual / bodily fluids)</p>
<p>Clean equipment and dry*</p> <p>Equipment can then be reused immediately</p>	<p>Decontaminate** or quarantine*** all equipment</p>

\*always follow manufacturers recommendations

\*\*if equipment can be decontaminated (wiped with detergent, alcohol wipes or chlorine-based disinfection) then does not need quarantine

\*\*\*quarantine time = see above

Paul Smith, MREW Equipment Officer  
Dr Alistair Morris, MREW Medical Director  
Dr Brendan Sloan, BCRC Medical Director  
Dr Alastair Glennie, SMR Medical Officer