

# ISSA Tip Sheet #2

February 18, 2020

## Recommendations for RISK ASSESSMENT for the Cleaning and Forensic Restoration Industry in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC) trained professionals **always** follow a protocol for all situations and response activities. While we recognize that all jobs are not the same and, on some jobs, a step of the protocol may not need to be performed.

- We train that you should always mentally go through each step.
- We train that documenting the rationale and step that we take for each job is imperative.
- We train that when preparing to clean, sanitize, and disinfect any space or area, a site risk assessment must be completed.

The six steps of the GBAC Protocol are:

1. Incident Site Risk Assessment – Quality Control
2. Pre-Disinfect
3. Load Reduction
4. Forensic Cleaning
5. Final Disinfection
6. Post Site Assessment – Quality Control

Summary of the GBAC Detailed Response Protocol:

### 1. Incident Site Risk Assessment – Quality Control

In training we say, “It starts with a phone call.” When you are called upon to clean, sanitize, and disinfect a space, you need to gather as much information as you can prior to going to the site. This is critical when you are responding to a situation where potentially infectious materials are involved. Your life and the lives of others depend on it.

The **site risk assessment** assists you in gathering critical incident data. By identifying the hazards and the risks associated with these hazards you will be able to develop the risk mitigation steps and strategies that allow for a safe and effective process. It assists in defining the needs of the job prior to entering the site, during the actual work and afterwards. It should be noted that not all jobs are created equal. The situations will define the PPE, the disinfectant to be used, the equipment that will be required.

Steps and questions to be considered to assist in completing the site risk assessment include but not limited to:

- Who are you talking to and what is a good callback phone number?
- What type of event is being discussed? For example:
  - Are we addressing interim disinfection (prevention) or corrective (responding to a known incident)?

- A COVID-19 outbreak in a school.
  - Norovirus on a cruise ship.
  - Crime and trauma scene.
  - Gather as much information as possible about any known infectious agents involved
  - Identify any other hazards (biological, chemical, physical)
  - Assess the risks associated with these hazards
  - Document your assessment
  - Communicate your assessment with all involved!
  - Determine your risk mitigation plan.
    - **Will you be conducting pre-biotest?** When and where applicable perform a pre-biotest. As an example, in some situations the use of an ATP meter to determine the initial state of cleanliness is appropriate.
    - How are you determining the concentration of the disinfectant to be used?
    - **Are there steps of the GBAC protocol that will not need to be completed?**
      - For example, if there is no visible biological material contamination the Load Reduction step may not be necessary.
      - If a step is not going to be conducted, you must document your reason as to why.
  - **Plan your approach (plan and procedures):**
    - Establish your operating zone, transition zone, clear zone.
    - Determine your entrance strategy and exit strategy.
    - Do you have electricity, running water, lighting, etc.?
    - Are there structural issues?
    - Do you need to address building or room contents?
    - Do you know the direction of airflow in the area?
    - Is overall indoor air quality a concern?
    - Determine your cleaning and disinfection needs. What and how much will you need?
    - Determine your equipment needs?
    - Do you have the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job?
      - PPE is a critical portion of the response.
      - Are your personnel trained on its use? **Personnel must be competent on proper donning and doffing techniques.**
      - Is it disposable?
      - If reusable, how will you decontaminate?
        - Do you need a laundry program for reusable work clothing?
    - Establish your waste management plan?
    - Document your proposed plan and process!
    - Communicate your plan and processes to all involved.
2. **Pre-Disinfecting:** If you are in a situation where there is visible contamination such as filth, vomit, blood, body fluids, etc., a pre-disinfection step where you apply a disinfectant may be needed. This knocks down the infectious agent contamination prior to entering the site.
- Use an appropriate disinfectant that is applicable for the infectious agent in question as per the label.
  - The use of equipment such as but not limited to sprayers, electrostatic sprayers, foggers or misters with the appropriate disinfectant is highly recommended.

Note. When you spray apply disinfectants, respiratory protection consideration for the workers must be taken into account for PPE needs.

3. **Load Reduction** – if there is visible biological material contamination. Load reduction is the removal and proper disposal of the gross biocontamination.
4. **Detailed Forensic Cleaning** – GBAC Forensic Cleaning® is the removal of biological contaminants to prepare surfaces both vertical and horizontal for Professional Disinfection (see step 5). It also included the removal of all soft goods such as textiles and trash that are to be removed from the area.
  - Step 1 - Meticulous cleaning of all surfaces both vertical and horizontal are initially dry cleaned preferably with microfiber towels or cloths via mechanical action (by hand). In the absence of microfiber towels you can use paper or cotton cloths.
    - Examples of vertical and horizontal surfaces include floors, walls, ceilings, doors, tabletops, countertops, bookshelves, etc.
  - Step 2 – Repeat with a detergent cleaning solution.
  - **Complete a Post-Bio Test** – If you conduct a pre-bio test using an ATP meter then you should conduct a post-bio test at this point to measure the effectiveness of your cleaning process.

Note: ATP testing does not indicate that you have killed the infectious agent. It is a measure of cleanliness only.

5. **Professional Disinfection – Extremely important step.**
  - Determine your spray pattern and scope.
    - Will you be spraying only touch points?
    - Will you be spraying walls and ceilings?
  - Use an appropriate disinfectant that is applicable for the infectious agent. Follow your country's guidance.
  - The use of equipment such as, but not limited to, sprayers, electrostatic sprayers, foggers, or misters with the appropriate disinfectant, is highly recommended. Note: when you spray apply disinfectants respiratory protection consideration for the workers must be taken into account for PPE needs.
  - Thoroughly spray all predetermined surfaces.
  - Ensure that dwell time is met according to the disinfectant label. Ensure surfaces remain visibly wet during the dwell time.
  - Pay close attention to all touch points.
6. **Post-Site Assessment – Quality Control**
  - Conduct a post visual inspection confirming that the scope of the job was met.
  - Complete all post operations documentation.
  - Are there any odor control issues that need to be addressed?
  - Waste management. Is all waste properly packaged and labeled for transport.
  - Client satisfaction sheet signed.
  - Review the process with all involved and document any lessons learned and steps for improvement.

**Previous Tip Sheets:**

View the GBAC Tip Sheet on using personal protective equipment [here](#).

**Other links of interest:**

- [Coronavirus: Prevention and Control for the Cleaning Industry](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\)](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) 2019 Novel Coronavirus Situation Summary](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Novel Coronavirus Coverage](#)

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