

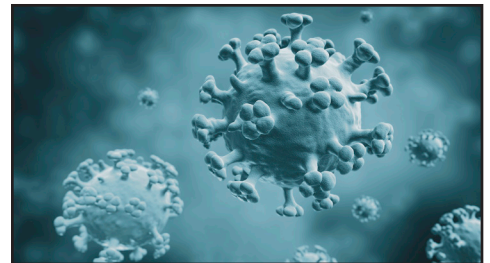


Seasonal Influenza Outbreaks

Influenza has been linked to many news stories across the country as the cause of illnesses, hospitalizations & even deaths, particularly in school aged children, the elderly and the immunocompromised. Although this virus has been around a long time, and usually doesn't cause a widespread outbreak situation, it is always mutating and officials are sometimes alarmed at how quickly some strains can spread in a short amount of time.

Recent problematic strains include Influenza A(H3), Influenza A (2009 H1N1), Avian Influenza A (H3N2) and Influenza B/ Yamagata. The symptoms of influenza are different from a cold. The flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms: fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), and some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, although this is more common in children.

Seasonal influenza outbreaks can become widespread epidemics or even global pandemics. This virus can live on a surface for hours and possibly as long as a day, depending on temperature and humidity. But Influenza can be controlled. Although it's labor intensive an outbreak can be contained with basic cleaning and disinfecting techniques. Special attention should be paid to common "hot spot" or high touch points like door handles, facets, water fountain knobs, or even toys that are used by multiple children throughout the day.



GUIDELINES:

1. If surfaces are visually dirty, they should be pre-cleaned with *Benefect* Multi-Purpose Cleaner (or other appropriate non-toxic cleaner). Dilute according to label directions, spray onto the surface and wipe off with a clean cloth or paper towel.
2. Apply *Benefect* Botanical Decon 30 Disinfectant in accordance with label directions. Decon 30 can even be used as a one-step Cleaner and Disinfectant if surfaces are not overly dirty. Decon 30 is a registered hospital disinfectant with the Federal Government (US EPA #84683-3-74771 / Health Canada DIN #02415046). No rinsing or wiping is required after application due to the safety profile of the botanical ingredients in Decon 30. Simply let the surface air dry.
3. *Benefect* Disinfectant Wipes (US EPA #84683-4-74771 / Health Canada DIN #02342111) are also a very convenient one-step tool for quickly wiping down potentially contaminated touch points.



No Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as a respirator is required in the application of this product, however due to the highly contagious nature of this virus PPE is recommended for the cleaning staff. Decon 30 & *Benefect* Wipes will not compromise indoor air quality or cause skin irritation when used on frequently touched surfaces.

Regular cleaning and disinfecting of public facilities is the key to infection control. Increased frequency is recommended during times of high illness among the occupants.

Additional resources can be found from the Centre for Disease Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>