

# Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection of Hospital Rooms: A Nationwide Survey



As an important reservoir for hospital-acquired infections, environmental surfaces have long been targeted by interventions to improve cleaning and disinfection. Differences in disinfection practices across U.S. hospitals, however, are still unclear. To determine these differences, Dr. Curtis J. Donskey, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, and Dr. Abhishek Deshpande, Cleveland Clinic, and their research groups conducted a nationwide survey of 273 U.S. environmental services (EVS) personnel regarding their environmental surface disinfection practices from January 2019 to June 2019.

*Survey questions inquired about choices of disinfectants and cleaning equipment during daily and terminal disinfection of both contact isolation and non-contact isolation rooms.*



Across  
**26**  
states

Across 26 states, hospitals reported more frequently using hypochlorite (bleach) and quaternary ammonium compounds to disinfect. Most respondents reported using microfiber-based cloths and mops to carry out disinfection.



**81%**

81% of high-touch surfaces in contact isolation rooms were frequently disinfected using bleach; floors, however, were not disinfected as frequently in patient rooms.



The vast majority of respondents reported use of sporicidal disinfectants for contact isolation rooms but not regular rooms. Patient room floors are inconsistently disinfected compared to high-touch surfaces.

## Conclusion

While frequently used to disinfect contact isolation rooms, sporicidal agents are rarely used to disinfect regular rooms. Patient room floors are inconsistently disinfected compared to high-touch surfaces.

Zheyi Han, BS, Ethan Pappas, BS, Adrienne Simmons, BA, Jacqueline Fox, RN, BSN, Curtis J. Donskey, MD, Abhishek Deshpande, MD, PhD, Environmental cleaning and disinfection of hospital rooms: A nationwide survey, American Journal of Infection Control, Volume 49, Issue 1, January 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2020.08.008>