



## **CBC NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)-FIGHTING PRODUCTS LIST**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **COVID-19**

##### **What type of virus is COVID-19?**

Viruses can be generally categorized into three groups by virus structure.<sup>1</sup> This affects the effectiveness of disinfectants in killing the viruses.

- Enveloped viruses are easiest to kill. (An example is Influenza A Virus.)
- Large, non-enveloped viruses are more difficult to kill. (An example is Rotavirus.)
- Small, non-enveloped viruses are hardest to kill. (Examples are Rhinovirus and Norovirus.)

Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product.

##### **How do we know a virus is harder or easier to kill?**

Viruses can be separated into classes based on structure, for example in simplest form, enveloped (e.g. SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19) and non-enveloped (e.g. Norovirus). Years of research and testing have shown that enveloped viruses are easier to kill using disinfectants than non-enveloped viruses, and a hierarchy of viruses has been developed.

##### **How can a company claim that a specific product should be used effectively during the COVID-19 outbreak?**

During an outbreak of a new virus like COVID-19, no products exist on the market that can make claims to kill the virus. This is due to the simple fact that the virus was not available to test, and it can take more than one year to get a viral claim approved by a regulatory agency. For this reason, the United States EPA enacted a 'hierarchy-based' policy. This means that if a company's product has been found to be effective against harder-to-kill viruses, it is likely to kill a virus like COVID-19.

A product that is likely to provide the greatest protection to you from COVID-19 will have claims against at least one non-enveloped virus such as Norovirus, Feline Calicivirus, Poliovirus, Rhinovirus, or Reovirus. This theory is the basis by which EPA has activated its Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides, regulating registrants that claim their products are effective against COVID-19.

While it is best to try to use products that qualified for the emerging viral pathogens claim (proven to kill harder to kill viruses), the U.S Environmental Protection Agency recently stated that if you cannot obtain

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<sup>1</sup> E.H. Spaulding **Chemical disinfection and antisepsis in the hospital**

J Hosp Res, 9 (1957), pp. 5-31.

those products, then use products that claim to kill Human Coronavirus because they “expect” that those products will be effective against SARS-CoV-2 (the cause of COVID-19).

### **What about a claim against Human Coronavirus? Won't that be enough for a product to be effective against COVID-19?**

Claims against Human Coronavirus do not meet the criteria for hierarchy guidance (see above) . The hierarchy approach is protective of public health by ensuring an extra layer of efficacy until research can be initiated. This was the same approach used for Ebola. However, on March 13, EPA did state that if a product with an emerging viral pathogen claim is not available, one should use a product with a coronavirus claim.

### **CBC Coronavirus-Fighting Products List**

#### **Can CBC verify the effectiveness of “Product X” on COVID-19?**

The CBC cannot make a determination of the effectiveness of Product X in fighting pathogens like COVID-19. In order to make a claim that the product should be effective against COVID-19, the manufacturer of the product must have a pesticide registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). To be listed on Tier I of the CBC list, the product must be in compliance with EPA's *Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides* for antimicrobial products and provide such documentation to the CBC.

As stated by EPA under its *Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides*, the following criteria determine if an EPA-registered disinfectant product is eligible to make a claim against COVID-19:

1. The product is an EPA-registered, hospital/healthcare or broad-spectrum disinfectant with directions for use on hard, porous or non-porous surfaces; and
2. The currently accepted product label (from an EPA registered product as described above) has a disinfectant efficacy claim against one large or one small non-enveloped virus.

CBC has not listed any product without first reviewing the product's Master Label, which indicates EPA's prior approval of the emerging pathogens qualification.

To be listed on Tier II of the CBC list, the manufacturer must provide a copy of the Master Label with language that states the product can disinfect against human coronavirus.

#### **How do I know that a U.S. company's claim is legitimate?**

Any company marketing hard-surface disinfectant products in the United States for use during the COVID-19 outbreak MUST have an EPA-approved Emerging Pathogen Claim. This claim cannot be found on the commercial label as it is only triggered during an outbreak. However, it can be found on the master label on EPA's website <https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1>.

Additionally, EPA is supporting the use of products that state it can disinfect against human coronavirus. This language must appear on the commercial label and master label.

#### **Can you add X hand sanitizing wipes to the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products List?**

Hand wipes, soaps and gels are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, not EPA. CBC's compilation of products are only those registered by EPA for use on hard surfaces (e.g., countertops, floors, fixtures, etc.), not the human body.

Viral claims on hand hygiene products (soaps, wipes, hand sanitizers) are not currently allowed by FDA.

**Do you have to be a member of the Center for Biocide Chemistries to list a product on the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products List?**

As a public service, CBC is offering listing to both member and non-member companies. To list a product, the manufacturer must be prepared to provide copies of the product's EPA-approved Master Label.

**What requirements are necessary in order to have my company's product listed on the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products List?**

**Tier I Products that Meet EPA's Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance**

Per EPA's *Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides*, the following criteria determine if an EPA-registered disinfectant product is eligible to make a claim against COVID-19:

1. The product is an EPA-registered, hospital/healthcare or broad-spectrum disinfectant with directions for use on hard, porous or non-porous surfaces.
2. The currently accepted product label (from an EPA-registered product as described above) should have disinfectant efficacy claims against the following viral pathogen groupings: one large or one small non-enveloped virus.

CBC has not listed any product without first reviewing the product's Master Label, which indicates EPA's prior approval of the emerging pathogens qualification.

A Master Label *must* be provided to the CBC in order for the product to be included on the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products List.

**Tier II Products that Disinfect Against Human Coronavirus**

As of March 13, EPA is supporting the use of products that have demonstrated efficacy against another human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2 on its List N, Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. In other words, the product has not proven that it can kill harder to kill viruses than SARS-CoV-2, which would be a Tier I product, but it can kill viruses like SARS-CoV-2. CBC therefore has amended its list to include a Tier II listing of products that state that they can disinfect human coronavirus.

EPA recommendation is that only if a product with an emerging viral pathogen claim is not available, use a product with a human coronavirus claim.

**X product has an EPA-approved Master Label for the emerging pathogen claim, so why isn't X product listed on the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products List?**

Submissions to CBC are voluntary. A product can only be listed if the manufacturer of the product meets the criteria referenced in the question and answer above.

CBC did not contact any company directly to include product(s).

If your company's product(s) qualifies, please contact Ms. Komal K. Jain at [Komal\\_Jain@americanchemistry.com](mailto:Komal_Jain@americanchemistry.com), and the necessary steps will be taken to verify and add your company's product to the CBC list.



### **How should we use a listed product?**

The instructions for use on the product label should be followed. If there are use directions for enveloped viruses, follow those directions. EPA recommends that if the directions for use for viruses/virucidal activity list different contact times or dilutions, use the longest contact time or most concentrated solution [See <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>].

### **What should you look for in a cleaning product if you're aiming to prevent the spread of coronavirus?**

If you are aiming to help stop the spread of COVID-19, a list of products presumed by EPA to be effective is available from the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products List. These products contain antimicrobials that kill many disease-causing viruses and other microbes. They have been tested against hundreds of pathogens, such as norovirus and MERS, and based on those results, EPA expects them to be effective against the virus that causes COVID-19. Each of these products on the list have been tested to stop the spread of pathogens from hard surfaces, and the manufacturer states that it is compliant with EPA's "emerging viral pathogen" guidance for antimicrobial products. The public should feel confident that the products included on CBC's list are available to help protect themselves from the spread of the novel coronavirus.

### **Other Lists**

#### **On March 4<sup>th</sup>, EPA issued a "List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2". How does this differ from the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Fighting Products List?**

The lists should be consistent with one another. You will likely find a greater number of products on the CBC list, however, because we have been compiling the list for a longer period of time. Additionally, the CBC lists products by marketed and brand names, EPA does not. In order to appropriately use the EPA list, you are directed by the EPA to check if the product's EPA registration number is included on this list. If it is, you have a match and the product can be used against COVID-19.

#### **Is there a list of products used for coronavirus cleaning in schools?**

A list of coronavirus-fighting products can be accessed at <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>. CBC suggests selecting a product from this list and follow label instructions on use.

### **Good Practices**

#### **What are steps that an average American can take to make sure their homes/offices are disinfected, sanitized, etc., to protect from COVID-19?**

Antimicrobials, also known as biocides, prevent the growth and spread of unwanted microbes. We rely on a class of antimicrobial products known as disinfectants to kill many disease-causing viruses, [like COVID-19](#).

First, it is critical that people understand the difference between cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing – there are distinct differences.<sup>2</sup> "Cleaning" removes dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects, but it does not *kill* germs. "Sanitizing" lowers the number of germs on a surface or object by reducing the germs to levels considered safe by public health standards or requirements. "Disinfecting" kills germs by using antimicrobials directly on surfaces and objects.

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<sup>2</sup> See e.g., <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>.

Additional tips for keeping healthy include:

- Use antimicrobials on highly touched surfaces in your home. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cleaning visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best-practice measure for prevention of COVID-19. CDC recommends a thorough disinfection of sinks, toilets, doorknobs, and other hard surfaces that people frequently touch. Also, keep in mind that [germs and bacteria can hide in many places](#). Use a disinfectant on your countertops, sinks, cabinets, appliance surfaces, and all handles or drawer pulls. Finally, everyone should wash their hands regularly with soap and water.
- Use antimicrobials on highly touched surfaces in your office. No one wants to make a coworker ill, so use of antimicrobial products will disinfect equipment like computer keyboards, staplers, and desks.
- Use antimicrobials in highly populated areas. Use antimicrobials to disinfect armrests, seats, and other places while traveling on airplanes, trains and automobiles. One of the fastest ways to spread viruses or bacterial infections is to be trapped in close quarters with strangers.

For more tips, visit [GoodChemistryLivesHere.com](http://GoodChemistryLivesHere.com)

**Want further information on the COVID-19 outbreak? Additional information linked below:**

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://waterandhealth.org/disinfect/public-health/coronavirus-what-is-it-and-how-can-we-prevent-its-spread/>
- <https://waterandhealth.org/disinfect/preventing-infection/will-wearing-a-face-mask-protect-against-coronavirus/>