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.¹ 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?
At the initial outbreak of the new SARS-CoV-2 virus/COVID-19, no products existed on the market that could make a claim to kill the virus. This is due to the simple fact that the virus was not available to test. 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.

This is why a product that has claims against at least one non-enveloped virus such as Norovirus, Feline Calicivirus, Poliovirus, Rhinovirus, or Reovirus is expected to protect you. 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.

¹ E.H. Spaulding Chemical disinfection and antisepsis in the hospital
J Hosp Res, 9 (1957), pp. 5-31
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 those products, then use products that claim to kill human coronavirus, Ebola, norovirus, or Tuberculosis because they “expect” that those products will be effective against SARS-CoV-2 (the cause of COVID-19).

As of July 6, 2020, the EPA was able to approve products that have been tested directly against SARS-CoV-2. The EPA reviewed laboratory testing data and approved associated label claims against SARS-CoV-2. These products are reflected on Tier I of the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fighting Products List.

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, 2020, 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 II 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 III 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. Additionally, CBC is accepting products that have efficacy data to disinfect against Ebola, norovirus, and Tuberculosis (EPA’s Lists L, G, & B) and are expected to kill SARS-CoV-2 when used according to the label.
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, Ebola, norovirus, and Tuberculosis (EPA’s List L, G, & B). 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**

Products that appear in the Tier 1 category have been tested directly against SARS-CoV-2. The EPA reviewed laboratory testing data and approved the associated label claims against SARS-CoV-2. Link to the press release and more information can be found here: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-approves-first-surface-disinfectant-products-tested-sars-cov-2-virus. To be included on Tier I, the product must demonstrate efficacy against SARS-CoV-2. This information can be found in the EPA approved master label for the product.

**Tier II 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 III Products that Disinfect Against Human Coronavirus, Ebola (List L), Norovirus (List G), and Tuberculosis (List B)**

EPA is supporting the use of products that have demonstrated efficacy against another human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2 and are included on EPA’s List N. Thus, CBC is listing products under Tier III of its list that have demonstrated efficacy against Ebola (List L), Norovirus (List G), and Tuberculosis (List B).

Note that EPA recommends using a product that will disinfect against human coronavirus, Ebola, Norovirus, or Tuberculosis ONLY if products that have demonstrated efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 or have the emerging viral pathogen claim are not available.

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 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, 2020, 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 the CBC lists products by marketed and brand names while EPA does not. In order to appropriately use EPA’s list, you are directed by the EPA to cross reference the product’s EPA registration number.

On April 2, 2020, EPA expanded List N to include “List G: Products effective against norovirus” and “List L: Products effective against the Ebola virus”. Why this addition and how is it reflected on CBC’s Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fighting Product List?
EPA decided to expand List N to include surface disinfectant products effective against norovirus and Ebola virus under the principle that these products “demonstrate efficacy against a harder-to-kill virus, or demonstrate efficacy against another type of human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2”. The EPA, however, does state that products under List L and List G should only be used if and only if there are no available products with the Emerging Viral Pathogen claim.

CBC includes products included on EPA’s List L and List G under Tier III of the CBC list.

On July 6, 2020, EPA announced the first two products that have been tested directly against SARS-CoV-2. What does this mean and how has this update been reflected on the CBC Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fighting Products List?
The EPA reviewed and approved laboratory testing data that indicates certain products are now effective against SARS-CoV-2. The CBC list has been reorganized to reflect this update. Tier I now lists the products that have been tested directly against SARS-CoV-2. Tier II lists all products with EPA’s Emerging Viral Pathogen Claim. Tier III lists products that demonstrate efficacy against another human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2, or products that demonstrate efficacy against Ebola, norovirus, or Tuberculosis.

On July 23, 2020, EPA expanded List N to include “List B: EPA’s Registered Tuberculocide Products Effective Against Mycobacterium tuberculosis”. Why this addition and how is it reflected on CBC’s Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fighting Product List?
EPA decided to expand List N to include surface disinfectant products that are approved as a tuberculocidal. While these products have not been tested against SARS-CoV-2, they are approved for killing the pathogen that causes tuberculosis and are expected to kill SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when used according to the label.

CBC includes List B products under Tier III of the CBC list.
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. 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.

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

Are there any benefits of ingesting or injecting disinfectants into a human or animal body?
Disinfectants should *never*, under any circumstances, be ingested or injected into a human or animal for any reason. Many of these products are poisonous when ingested and are intended for surface use *only*. Always follow directions for use on product labels. For more information on this topic, please visit https://www.americanchemistry.com/Media/PressReleasesTranscripts/ACC-news-releases/CBC-Reminds-Americans-Ingesting-Disinfectants-Is-Dangerous.html.

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


• https://waterandhealth.org/disinfect/preventing-infection/will-wearing-a-face-mask-protect-against-coronavirus/