



Rescue™ Disinfectants

Overall statement on Rescue™ and coronavirus: Rescue™ Disinfectants can help your facility play a vital role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Approved under the EPA's Emerging Viral Pathogen guidance for use against the COVID-19 coronavirus, Rescue™ can be used to clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces throughout your facility, in addition to helping you maintain a robust routine cleaning and disinfection protocol. Here is some useful information from frequently asked questions we have received:

Are Rescue™ Disinfectants effective against the COVID-19 coronavirus?

Rescue™ is approved under the EPA's Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for use against the coronavirus which causes COVID-19. The following list, published on the EPA's website, includes disinfectants to be used against the COVID-19 virus:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. The EPA registration numbers for Rescue™ Concentrate (74559-4), Ready-to-Use (74559-9) and Wipes (74559-10) can be found in this list.

In cases of emerging viral pathogens such as COVID-19, the EPA implements the Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance for Antimicrobial Products. The COVID-19 coronavirus is a newly identified pathogen, therefore there is no method developed yet for disinfectants to be tested against this particular virus. In the case of enveloped (easy-to-kill) viruses such as the COVID-19 coronavirus, hospital or broad-spectrum disinfectants can be used if they have submitted data to the EPA against an approved harder-to-kill virus. The Rescue™ line of products are hospital disinfectants with efficacy against multiple harder-to-kill viruses, fulfilling the EPA requirements for use against the virus that causes COVID-19. Therefore, Rescue™ Wipes, Ready-to-Use Liquid, and Concentrate can be used against the virus that causes COVID-19.

How should I use Rescue™ against the COVID-19 coronavirus?

Rescue™ should be used according to the label instructions for viruses – if using Rescue™ Concentrate, Rescue™ should be diluted at 1:64 or 2 oz. disinfectant per gallon of water. The diluted concentrate, once applied to the surface, should be allowed to remain wet to reach a contact time of **five minutes**.

If using Rescue™ Ready-to-Use liquid or Rescue™ Wipes, simply apply the liquid or wipe to the surface, and allow the surface to remain wet to reach a contact time of **one minute**.

Where should I use Rescue™ throughout my facility to protect against COVID-19?

First and foremost, it's important to maintain your existing infection prevention protocols. This is always your first and best line of defense in protecting animals and people against any infectious diseases. However, you may want to add some additional precautions when it comes to cleaning and disinfecting surfaces throughout your facility.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the CDC recommends cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, as these are the surfaces most likely to transmit virus from one person to the next. Within your facility, this might include door handles, light switches, keyboards and computer mice, phones, and desks or tabletops. Rescue™ Wipes, with their rapid contact time of 1 minute, are ideal for routinely wiping down these types of surfaces.

Can you disinfect animals who may have been in contact with COVID-19 patients?

Since Rescue™ Disinfectants are labeled as surface disinfectants, as the manufacturer we cannot recommend the application of the product directly on pets (or humans). In this case, the most important protective measure would be to do your best to ensure that no person infected with COVID-19 is entering the facility. In terms of pets coming in, we would recommend following general cleaning recommendations for intake, which would include bathing the pet, cleaning and disinfecting any other fomites such as collars, leashes, etc., and ensuring they are kept isolated if they are suspected to be a fomite for COVID-19 or any other pathogen. Ensuring that visitors and your team are practicing routine hand hygiene by encouraging regular hand washing, and making hand sanitizer available throughout your facility can also a long way in preventing the spread of this virus.

The AVMA has published a FAQ on this issue: *COVID-19 appears to be primarily transmitted by contact with an infected person's bodily secretions, such as saliva or mucus droplets in a cough or sneeze. COVID-19 might be able to be transmitted by touching a contaminated surface or object (i.e., a fomite) and then touching the mouth, nose, or possibly eyes, but this appears to be a secondary route. Smooth (non-porous) surfaces (e.g., countertops, door knobs) transmit viruses better than porous materials (e.g., paper money, pet fur), because porous, and especially fibrous, materials absorb and trap the pathogen (virus), making it harder to contract through simple touch. Because the animal's hair is porous and also fibrous, it is very unlikely that you would contract COVID-19 by petting or playing with them. However, because animals can spread other diseases to people and people can also spread diseases to animals, it's always a good idea to wash your hands before and after interacting with animals; ensure your pet is kept well groomed; and regularly clean your pet's food and water bowls, bedding material, and toys.*

Can Rescue™ be used on keyboards, phones and other electronic devices?

The Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide® (AHP®) chemistry powering Rescue™ has been validated for use on some of the most sensitive medical equipment in human and animal healthcare settings. Panasonic has approved AHP® for use on their notebooks and we are continuously working with other companies to validate AHP® on their medical equipment. While, we have not conducted specific testing on phone screens, touch screens, computer monitors etc., our experience has shown that AHP® has good compatibility with phone screens, keyboards, and other electronic devices.

For phone screens, the Rescue™ ready to use surface disinfectant products are not formulated using solvents that aid in the provision of a streak free finish, so streaking may occur. However, AHP® surface disinfectants are compatible with glass and mirror, and wiping the surface with a buffing or damp wipe using water can help avoid this issue.

For keyboards or any type of keypads (including payment machines, etc.), the best option would be to have a protective cover that can be cleaned and disinfected with Rescue™. This would prevent excess liquid from pooling and entering the spaces between the keys. However, if this is not possible, the best alternative would be to lightly wipe the keyboard with Rescue™, taking care to not over-saturate the surface and cause the liquid to pool.

Why do Rescue™ products have a pinhole in the lids and seals of the product?

Rescue™ has a small vent, which looks like a pinhole, in the lids and caps of our products to provide an additional layer of safety for the user. The active ingredient in our disinfectants is hydrogen peroxide, which is an oxidizer that has the potential to create gas in the event of product movement (such as during shipping). The gas can create pressure within the container, which can compromise the integrity of the packaging. In the unlikely event that there is a slight buildup of pressure within the container, the vent (pinhole) ensures a safe way for the pressure to be relieved without compromising product packaging or efficacy prior to you handling the product.

Resources

Infection control planning for animal group settings AAHA infection control, prevention, and biosecurity guidelines:
<https://www.aaaha.org/>

Infectious disease in dogs in group settings:
<http://go.osu.edu/IDk9risk>

Infection prevention and control best practices for small animal veterinary clinics:
<https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/resources-pets/>

COVID-19 and Pets

AVMA (COVID-19 FAQ):
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Animals and COVID-19:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/animals.html>

Clinician's Brief COVID-19 Updates (includes algorithm for high-risk owner contacts):
<https://www.cliniciansbrief.com/covid-19-updates>

Info Sheet: Coronaviruses at the Human-Animal Interface:
https://www.cahss.ca/media/uploads/CEZD/documents/20-02-18_16-24/infosheet_-_Coronaviruses_at_the_Human-Animal_Interface.pdf

OIE World Organization for Animal Health:
<https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/>

Worms & Germs Blog (COVID-19 posts):
<https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/tags/covid-19/>

Authored by: Jason Stull, VMD, MPVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM

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