

The five most common CA-MRSA mistakes

You are armed with a microfiber wipe in one hand and a disinfectant sprayer in the other, ready to take aim against Community-acquired MRSA (CA-MRSA).

Are you making the right decisions or are you making one of the five most common CA-MRSA mistakes?

1. One-step Disinfectants vs. Two-step Disinfectants

To be EPA registered as a “one-step” cleaner-disinfectant, a product must perform required kill levels against specific microbials in the presence of organic soil. The test used by the EPA contaminates the surface with 5 percent blood serum to mimic organic soil found on cleaning surfaces.

So, when you go to disinfect a counter, you need to decide on whether the soil on the surface is equal to or less than 5 percent blood serum. If you misjudge and the surface has more soil, the effectiveness of the disinfectant is compromised and you might not be reducing MRSA to safe levels.

If you use a traditional two-step method, clean first, then apply disinfectant, you eliminate the need to make this judgment. There is no guesswork when using the two-step system and you can be confident the disinfectant is doing its job.

2. Using the most powerful disinfectant available.

You don't need to use the most hazardous disinfectant to effectively kill MRSA. You just need to use one that is EPA registered to kill MRSA, which will be stated on the product's label.

Look for alternatives to harsh quats, phenol, or bleach-based disinfectants. As an example, the silver ion technology of



Critical Care Disinfectant-Fungicide-Virucide delivers a fast two-minute kill on MRSA and a 24-hour residual kill on common bacteria.

3. Disinfect the entire facility.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states you do not need to disinfect every inch of a facility to combat MRSA, just those surfaces most likely to be in contact with uncovered or poorly covered MRSA skin infections.

“We advise customers to first clean all surfaces with H₂Orange₂[®] Concentrate 117 Multi-Purpose Cleaner-Sanitizer-Virucide-HBV. This cleans the surface and sanitizes it,” points out Taylor Stewart, president of Envirox LLC. “Then, use a more expensive disinfectant on those areas most likely to be touched by bare skin.”

4. Only health providers need to know what CA-MRSA skin infections look like.

Everyone needs to know what CA-MRSA looks like so it can be quickly treated and the spread contained. There are fly-

When combating CA-MRSA, use an EPA-registered MRSA disinfectant that states on its label that it is effective against MRSA. Critical Care Disinfectant-Fungicide-Virucide delivers a two-minute MRSA kill and 24-hour residual kill against common bacteria.

ers with pictures available online, such as the one available from the Georgia Department of Human Resources (<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/epi/notifiable/mrsaPreventionPoster.pdf>).

Additionally, make sure all hand-soap dispensers are filled and post small flyers to remind people that hand-washing is effective against the spread of all disease. Downloadable flyers are available at the CDC website, http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_posters.html.

5. MRSA is the biggest threat to public health.

CA-MRSA is a big health concern. Last year it killed about 19,000 people. However, influenza claimed many more lives — approximately 36,000. There are many sanitizers that will reduce the flu virus to safe levels and are more cost-effective than disinfectants. Hydrogen peroxide-based H₂Orange₂[®] 117 Multi-Purpose Cleaner-Sanitizer-Virucide-HBV is one example.

Looking for more MRSA information? Visit the MRSA Information Site at <http://www.enviroxclean.com/MRSA-Information.asp>.

Circle Product Information no. 151

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