June 2020

COVID 19 Considerations for EASI International Normative Data Collection (INDC)

EASI INDC testers continuing or resuming EASI data collection should follow local guidance and policies for safe interactions with the children tested and with their families.

Local guidelines to consider:

- temperature and symptom monitoring
- social distancing
- mask wearing
- hand washing
- surface cleaning (including testing materials)

Of special concern are the 3D printed shapes used for the Tactile Perception: Oral Test.
First, wear clean gloves when handling the shapes for the oral test. Prior to use, ensure shapes are clean and safe to go into the child's mouth. The following guidelines are suggested, based on current information posted by the US Center for Disease Control, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the World Health Organization.

Disinfect shapes by one or more of the following methods:

1) soaking the shapes in hydrogen peroxide for at least 10 minutes
2) washing the shapes with soap and hot water (at least 56°C (140°F)
3) placing the shapes under UV light (e.g. https://pmai.co/products/clean-kit-uv-c-sanitizer-bag)

In addition, after each item is administered, the water bottle with the shape should be placed in a receptacle and removed from the testing table. Following disinfecting of the shapes, store them such that they cannot be contaminated and do not use the shapes for testing again for at least 24 hours.

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The following information regarding COVID-19 is from the US CDC. US EPA or WHO:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#ScreenChildren;

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#CleanDisinfect

Approved list of disinfectants:

https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19

While surface disinfectant products on List N have not been tested specifically against SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, EPA expects them to kill the virus because they:

- *Demonstrate efficacy (e.g. effectiveness) against a harder-to-kill virus; or*
- *Demonstrate efficacy against another type of human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2.*

All surface disinfectants on List N can be used to kill viruses on surfaces such as counters and doorknobs.

Because SARS-CoV-2 is a new virus, this pathogen is not readily available for use in commercial laboratory testing to see if a certain disinfectant product is effective at killing the virus.

The transmission of novel coronavirus to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected, but do not have symptoms, likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19. Transmission of coronavirus occurs much more commonly through respiratory droplets than through objects and surfaces, like doorknobs, countertops, keyboards, toys, etc. Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.

It is unknown how long the air inside a room occupied by someone with confirmed COVID-19 remains potentially infectious. Facilities will need to consider factors such as the size of the room and the ventilation system design (including flowrate [air changes per hour] and location of supply and exhaust vents) when deciding how long to close off rooms or areas used by ill persons before beginning disinfection. Taking measures to improve ventilation in an area or room where someone was ill or suspected to be ill with COVID-19 will help shorten the time it takes respiratory droplets to be removed from the air.

This information has been reviewed by two independent public health professionals, one of which has been involved in the COVID response in the United States.