

memo

To: HBO Technologists & Program Directors
From: Tim Mayhugh, CHT, National Safety Director
CC: Dr. Tom Serena & Jill Schroder
Date: 3/17/2020
Re: COVID-19 Hyperbaric Medicine Chambers Disinfectants

Here is the most up to date information that you need to keep yourself and your patients safe throughout the current COVID-19 pandemic. The following is a news release from the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society (UHMS). Please note that the conclusion of experts in the field in HBO is that ***“There are no special recommendations that we are aware of for chamber attendants or for disinfection of the hyperbaric chamber and BIBs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The usual disinfection protocols are more than sufficient to kill COVID-19, in the unlikely event that it would be present.”***

UHMS NEWS RELEASE

Date Posted: 3/17/2020

Question: *Have the protocols for cleaning the chambers and disinfection changed in light of the COVID-19 outbreak?*

The UHMS-SC directs all hyperbaric practices to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) along with guidance from the Hyperbaric Chamber Manufacturer, State and local health agencies, and your hospital infection prevention and control group.

The CDC has released a list of items as identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that can be utilized for disinfection, stating that

“Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).”

It is important to note that many of the items within the EPA’s list may be unsafe to utilize on acrylic surfaces. It is important to reach out to your specific chamber

manufacturer for further guidance. **In all cases, it is important to follow the guidance of the product's manufacturer for application and contact time.**

For non-acrylic surfaces, The UHMS-SC advises you follow the guidance of your hospital's infection prevention and control department to identify a particular product that is known to be effective against COVID-19.

Regarding protocols for cleaning chamber surfaces, hyperbaric facilities should follow the protocols set forth by their institution. Dr. Jim Chimiak, Medical Director at the Divers Alert Network states: *"There are no special recommendations that we are aware of for chamber attendants or for disinfection of the hyperbaric chamber and BIBs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The usual disinfection protocols are more than sufficient to kill COVID-19, in the unlikely event that it would be present."*

Respectfully,

The UHMS Safety Committee

References:

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