




NHS Lothian Safety Alert Action Notice



Alert Title:	IA 257 Using Chlorine Based Cleaning agents on PPE		
Alert Description:		<p>There have been reports of staff sustaining chemical type skin damage on their faces after wearing Face Visor/Eye protection which have been cleaned with chlorine based agents (ChlorClean). Please note that these items should be cleaned with alcohol wipes in the first instance if available.</p> <p>If Chlorine based agent has to used, then the protective visor/shield/goggles should be rinsed thoroughly and dried before use.</p>	
Source:	INTERNAL	Alert Type:	INTERNAL ALERT
Issued:	20/04/2020	Date Received by Safety Alerts:	12/04/2020

Risk Assessed to NHS Lothian as:	Low	Medium	High	V High	
		✔			
Consequences/Impact:	<i>Negligible</i>	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
			✔		

Product known to be used at the following locations:	Throughout NHS Lothian including community / primary care settings
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Actions:	Issued by Clinical Alerts Coordinator: Jacklyn Calvard	Date:	20/04/2020
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Action Issued to:	Action	Deadline
ALL SERVICE DIRECTORS / GENERAL MANAGERS	Read this alert and ensure staff have access to, and can read the information contained in this alert.	03/05/2020
	Please follow SOPs for infection control and cleaning and ensure all staff have access to this information.	
	Report any incidents through DATIX.	
	Please respond to Safety Alerts Team when actions are complete on Safety.Alert@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	

Please contact the Alerts Coordinator if:

- You think you should not have been allocated an action in relation to this alert.
- You think the timescales allocated are not appropriate.
- You suspect we may have omitted a service area that SHOULD have received an action relating to this alert.

Thank you.
Contact us: safety.alert@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk or Telephone: 07904 490081

Cleaning and Decontamination of Eye Protection



Purpose of this procedure:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of eye protection has been recommended for all areas for all staff when at risk of splash/cough. In Critical Care areas or when undertaking aerosol generating procedures (requiring the use of filtering face piece) a full face visor must be worn.

Supplies of single use or disposable eye protection have been unavailable or not arrived to clinical areas when needed which has led to staff needing to decontaminate eye-protection.

The National Infection Prevention and Control Manual would recommend cleaning is done using a solution containing 1,000 parts per million of available chlorine (Chlorclean) which may cause skin irritation.

The most recent literature review by Health Protection Scotland states that cleaning small surfaces with ethanol 70% is an effective decontaminant for SARS-CoV-2. This should pose less of a risk for an adverse reaction with the skin and is the preferred method for decontaminating eye protection.

This procedure aims to support staff in ensuring the eye-protection is appropriately decontaminated and minimise the risk of skin irritation.

The Procedure:

Ensure clean and dirty eye protection is stored in an area clearly marked to prevent the re-use of dirty eye-protection.

If the eye protection has a foam component that will come into contact with skin, these are not suitable for decontamination and should be single use. Eye protection with any material or elastic component is not compatible with decontamination using alcohol wipes. These should follow the process for decontamination using Chlorclean following a risk assessment with Senior Management.

Staff should remove (doff) PPE in line with guidance. Eye protection should be placed in a designated area ready for decontamination.

Cleaning and Decontamination using alcohol wipes (preferred process):

Cleaning and decontamination should be undertaken in the sluice or dedicated equipment cleaning room. The member of staff who will perform the cleaning and decontamination procedure should follow the instructions below.

Cleaning and Decontamination of Eye Protection



Cleaning:

- Perform hand hygiene
- Don appropriate PPE for cleaning and decontamination (apron, gloves and eye protection if at risk of splash)
- The dirty eye protection should be examined for any damage and discarded if any found
- Any visible dirt/contamination should be removed using a detergent wipe or detergent solution and a cloth
- The eye protection should be allowed to dry or dried using disposable blue roll
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene

Decontamination:

- Perform hand hygiene
- Don appropriate PPE (apron and gloves)
- Using an alcohol wipe, wipe all surfaces.
- Use a new wipe if the one in use is dry/dries out
- Allow alcohol to evaporate
- Place clean/decontaminated eye protection in dedicated “clean” area for use
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene

Cleaning and Decontamination using Chlorclean – after risk assessment:

Cleaning and decontamination should be undertaken in the sluice or dedicated equipment cleaning room. The member of staff who will perform the cleaning and decontamination procedure should follow the instructions below.

Cleaning:

- Perform hand hygiene
- Don appropriate PPE for cleaning and decontamination (apron, gloves and eye protection if at risk of splash)
- The eye protection should be examined for any damage and discarded if any found
- Any visible dirt/contamination should be removed using a detergent wipe or detergent solution and a cloth
- The eye protection should be allowed to dry or dried using disposable blue roll
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene

Cleaning and Decontamination of Eye Protection



Decontamination:

- Perform hand hygiene
- Don appropriate PPE for cleaning and decontamination (apron, gloves and eye protection if at risk of splash)
- The eye protection should be wiped with Chlorclean solution (1,000 ppm av. Cl.)
- If there is an elastic headband or material component the eye protection should be soaked in the Chlorclean solution in a dedicated basin or container that is cleaned/dried and inverted after use
- The eye protection should be left to dry (minimum of 15 minutes for contact time)
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene

Prepare decontaminated eye protection for use:

- Perform hand hygiene
- Don appropriate PPE (Apron and gloves with eye protection if required)
- Place the eye protection into a container of fresh clean water to rinse
- Agitate avoiding splashing to ensure residue is removed as far as possible
- Dry using blue paper roll and allow any elastic/fabric strap to dry before storing
- Place clean/decontaminated in dedicated “clean” area for use
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene

Associated materials/references:

Refer to NHS Lothian COVID-19 PPE guidance for full information on the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) here:

Who wears what table: <http://intranet.lothian.scot.nhs.uk/COVID-19/PatientManagement/Documents/Who%20wears%20What%20PPE%20When%20Table.pdf>

Which items can be worn on a “sessional” basis: <http://intranet.lothian.scot.nhs.uk/COVID-19/PatientManagement/Documents/Guidance%20on%20Sessional%20use%20of%20PPE.pdf>

Health Protection Scotland, *National Infection Prevention and Control Manual*. [available here: <http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>]

Health Protection Scotland, *Rapid Review of the literature: Assessing the infection prevention and control measures for the prevention and management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings*. [available here: https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/2985/documents/1_covid-19-rapid-review-ipc-for-covid-19.pdf]

Cleaning and Decontamination of Eye Protection



