



MRSA and Disinfection Frequently Asked Questions. Please note that these Frequently Asked Questions are being provided for informational purposes. A facility should consult with their State Health Department prior to implementing any specific processes and procedures within their facility.

Q: Which of the products effective against MRSA does Betco recommend for Bathrooms? High Touch Surfaces? Sports Equipment?

A: Bathrooms: AF79 Concentrate, Quat Stat or Quat Stat SC

A: High Touch Surfaces:

Concentrates: pH7Q, pH7Q Ultra (This includes wrestling mats and similar surfaces such as school bus seats)

Ready to Use: Fight Bac RTU or TB Plus Spray (Test in an inconspicuous area as discoloration or deterioration may occur on some plastics and other surfaces)

A: Athletic Equipment: (Hard Non Porous) (Plastic; Helmets, knee guards, shin guards, etc.): pH7Q or pH7Q Ultra

NOTE: Porous Surfaces (such as helmet linings, and other “spongy” or cloth surfaces) Should not be cleaned or disinfected with hard surface cleaners or disinfectants.

The items should be cleaned and rinsed with mild detergent (e.g. dish detergent) and allowed to completely air dry or laundered if appropriate or heat dry in a commercial dryer. As always, please consult the manufacturer's instructions on proper cleaning and maintenance of the material.

Q: Should stationary outdoor items such as playground equipment be cleaned and disinfected?

A: As some organisms can survive in cooler temperatures, it is advisable to at least routinely CLEAN outdoor equipment. If a disinfectant cleaner is chosen, it may be advisable to opt for a ready to use product such as Fight Bac RTU.

Q: Which of Betco Corporation products can I use to disinfect “artificial turf”?

A: Given the variety of resins and padding used in artificial turf, most are considered POROUS surfaces; therefore a hard surface disinfectant is not appropriate. Proper hand hygiene, and showering should reduce spread following contact.

Q: How long does a product have to contact the surface in order to achieve appropriate disinfection?

A: This will depend on the PRODUCT being applied. The contact time on most of the disinfectants available with claims against MRSA will be 10 minutes. This can be achieved by starting at one end of the surface (room) and working way around and wiping any excess liquid beginning from the starting point.

This applies to auto scrubbers on floors as well.

A lower contact time of 3 minutes against MRSA is available on the Fight Bac RTU. Please consult information on testing on inconspicuous surface.

Q: Must I use an antibacterial soap or will a bland soap achieve similar results?

A: The CDC specifically recommends the use of soap and water. The friction of traditional soap and water washing for 20-30 seconds (about the length of time of “Happy Birthday” or “ABC Song”) will remove soils and transient bacteria from the surface of the skin. Either a bland soap or antimicrobial soap will yield similar results.

Q: Can I use a hand rub (hand sanitizer) instead of hand washing?

A: A hand rub (waterless hand sanitizer) is acceptable ONLY when the hands are not visibly soiled, and if soap and water are not available. If using a hand rub, the CDC currently recommends the use of an alcohol based hand rub.

Q: If I use a hand rub can I use an alcohol free hand rub (waterless hand sanitizer)?

A: This determination must be made by the facility and the appropriate state health department appropriate to your area. Betco Corporation has provided a list of contacts and sites for state health departments in order to assist with your facility with making appropriate determinations.

Q: Are there any products suitable for disinfecting carpet?

A: Carpeting is a porous surface. While there are some carpet sanitizing products on the market, there are not currently carpet disinfectant products on the market due to the nature of the material. Routine standard carpet cleaning, including extraction should be sufficient.

Q: How do I launder towels, uniforms and similar materials that may potentially be contaminated?

A: Towels, uniforms and other washable items should be washed with laundry detergent in the hottest water cycle, and dried on a hot cycle. Any special laundering instructions of any specific material should be consulted PRIOR to laundering to avoid damage to the item.

Please note that items contaminated with blood or other body fluids should be washed SEPARATELY from other items in accordance with state and Federal blood borne pathogen regulations.

Q: There are shower curtains and similar material available on the market that are impregnated with Antimicrobial agents, does this mean that a facility does not have to clean or disinfect these items?

A: NO. These agents are designed to protect the article (e.g. shower curtain). By US EPA regulation, the efficacy does NOT extend protection of the surface.

Vinyl shower curtains can be laundered on a delicate cycle and then hung to dry. Impregnated hard surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected similar to other hard surfaces.

Q: What is the “shelf life” of diluted disinfectants in mop buckets? spray bottles? Ready to quarts?

A: Mop buckets (and other open containers): The product MUST be changed out when the solution becomes visibly diluted or soiled. This will vary from facility to facility depending on level

of soiling and similar. Regardless, this solution must be changed out prior to the start of the next shift (8 hours).

A: Spray Bottles: Shelf life in spray bottles will vary from product to product, in accordance with Federally accepted labeling. Unless the product specifically lists efficacy claims for an extended period the listed language or default language by Federal Regulation will require the user to “prepare a fresh solution for each use” (prior to the beginning of the next shift or at least every 24 hours).

pH7Q Ultra has been specifically tested at an extended period for up to 3 months. This applies ONLY to fresh product added to clean, closed, dry containers. Any opening of the spray bottle after the solution is added would subject the product to open container stipulations.

Q: Can I use off the shelf bleach as opposed to a commercial disinfectant?

A: Limited “in use” shelf life and package shelf life, respiratory concerns, and incompatibility with other chemical agents, may pose a greater risk than commercial disinfectants. Please check with your local or state health department concerning the use of bleach, prior to use.

Q: Can a facility use a cotton cloth rag, or microfiber cloth that has been soaking solution?

A: When not mopping, it is recommended that the solution be applied directly to the surface. Some cloths can absorb the active ingredient resulting in less being applied to the surface.

Q: How often should I change out a cloth or microfiber mop being used on a floor?

A: A cotton mop or microfiber mop should be changed out upon visible contamination. In any case, a cotton or microfiber mop should not be used beyond one shift. They should be disposed of or laundered prior to the next shift. If the cloth becomes contaminated prior to the next shift, it should be changed immediately.

Q: Is a product claim for Staphylococcus aureus the same as a claim for Staphylococcus aureus (Methicillin Resistant) (MRSA)?

A: No. These claims are not the same, and are differentiated by the US Environmental Protection Agency, however, some states are advising using products that are efficacious against Staphylococcus aureus. Please consult with your state Health Department concerning use of products that do not contain a specific Methicillin resistant strain.

Q: Do I have to use a product that claims efficacy against a specific CA-MRSA (Community Acquired) strain in a school setting?

A: At current the US Environmental Protection Agency makes no distinction on the Federal listing for products with efficacy against MRSA. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and many state health agencies reference the list known as the “H List” to guide facilities in appropriate products to use that are efficacious against MRSA.

Please see list H for more information: http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list_h_mrsa_vre.pdf

PLEASE NOTE: Any product beginning with the first two sets of EPA registration number on this list are considered effective against MRSA.

Fight Bac RTU = EPA Reg. No. **1839-83-4170**
pH7Q Ultra = EPA Reg. No. **47371-129-4170**

pH7Q = EPA Reg. No. **47371-131-4170**
Quat Stat = EPA Reg. No. **1839-95-4170**
Quat Stat SC = EPA Reg. No. **6836-78-4170**
AF79 Concentrate = EPA Reg. No. **6836-73-4170**
TB Plus Spray = EPA Reg. No. **706-69-4170**

Q: How often does a surface need to be cleaned/ disinfected?

A: This will vary from facility to facility depending on the use of areas and the amount of soiling. It is recommended that cleaning and disinfecting, especially of high touch surfaces is conducted at the beginning of each shift.

Stationary athletic equipment should be wiped down between each user. Portable athletic equipment and other shared items (if sharing is unavoidable) should be cleaned and/or disinfected prior to the next use.

NOTE: Sharing of towels, razors, and other personal care items should be avoided.

Q: There is growing concern of spread of organisms through contact with computer keyboards. How do I clean these surfaces?

A: There are alcohol wipes specifically designed for computer keyboards, phone headsets and similar electronic items. Any liquid will evaporate quickly. These should be used at the end of student/ employee use and prior to next user. In between uses, the keyboards can be covered with plastic keyboard covers.

Q: Can I fog disinfectants in order to decontaminate a surface?

A: ONLY products specifically labeled as foggers should be used for this surface. Foggers on the market are DISINFECTANTS designed to be used on CLEAN surfaces. Foggers do NOT replace cleaning of surfaces.

Users must follow all appropriate directions on foggers when in use including applying only in non occupied areas by trained and properly protected personnel. These products cause severe skin, eye and mucous membrane irritation.

Please consult with your local or state health department concerning the use of foggers in your facility.

NOTE: None of the products in the Betco Corporation line are labeled or intended to be used as foggers.