

## POSITION STATEMENT

### Recommendations for Environmental Disinfection of Emergency Vehicles

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#### Background

The principles of *Routine Practice* are based on the premise that all clients/patients/residents, their secretions, excretions and body fluids and their environment might potentially be contaminated with harmful microorganisms. By following simple preventive practices at all times regardless of whether or not an illness is “known”, staff in the Prehospital Care (PHC) setting will be protecting clients/patients/residents and themselves from an unknown, undiagnosed infectious risk through appropriate cleaning and disinfection of emergency vehicles. Numerous chemistries and applications are available in the market and diligent consideration must be given to each technology to determine efficacy and appropriateness for use in the prehospital care setting.

#### Position Statement

- **It is strongly recommended that services contact an Infection Control Practitioner to assist with assessment of practices and/or purchases that involve prevention and control of infections.**
- Organizations shall ensure they have a comprehensive written policy for cleaning and disinfection of emergency vehicles and equipment.
- Staff have received training for cleaning and disinfection of emergency vehicles and equipment
- Emergency vehicle surfaces and/or the client’s/patient’s environment that has come in contact with blood and/or body fluids, non-intact skin, mucous membranes or contaminated hands of the health care provider must be cleaned and disinfected prior to accommodating another client/patient.
- When exploring disinfectant fogging disinfection solutions, consider other factors when procuring or using such technology including:
  - Such as appropriateness.
  - Surfaces will still require manual cleaning prior to any disinfection process
  - Turnaround time,
  - Cost implications, and efficacy
  - Ensure the product meets all cleaning and disinfection standards are met while maintaining workplace health and safety standards

#### Stakeholders

This position statement is directed to all health care providers in prehospital care settings which can include paramedic, police, fire and other first responder services that operate emergency vehicles.

## Participants in Development of Position Statement

This position statement was developed by the IPAC Canada 2012-13 Prehospital Care Interest Group members:

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