**WASH FIT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING TECHNICAL MODULE**

**Time to complete: 10 minutes**

# Risk-assessment for determining environmental cleaning method and frequency

[Reproduced directly from PIDAC, 2018]

**Step 1: Categorize the risk factors that determine the need for environmental cleaning: probability of contamination with pathogens**

**Heavy Contamination (score = 3)**

An area is designated as being heavily contaminated if surfaces and equipment are routinely exposed to copious amounts of fresh blood or other body fluids (e.g., birthing suite, autopsy suite, cardiac catheterization laboratory, hemodialysis station, Emergency room, client/patient/resident bathroom if visibly soiled).

**Moderate Contamination (score = 2)**

An area is designated as being moderately contaminated if surfaces and equipment do not routinely (but may) become contaminated with blood or other body fluids and the contaminated substances are contained or removed (e.g., wet sheets). All client/patient/resident rooms and bathrooms should be considered to be, at a minimum, moderately contaminated.

**Light Contamination (score = 1)**

An area is designated as being lightly contaminated if surfaces are not exposed to blood, other body fluids or items that have come into contact with blood or body fluids (e.g., lounges, libraries, offices).

### Vulnerability of Population to Infection

More Susceptible (score = 1)

Susceptible clients/patients/residents are most susceptible to infection because of their medical condition or lack of immunity. These include those who are immunocompromised (oncology, transplant and chemotherapy units), neonates (level 2 and 3 nurseries), and those who have severe burns (i.e., requiring care in a burn unit).

Less Susceptible (score = 0)

For the purpose of risk stratification for cleaning, all other individuals and areas are classified as less susceptible.

### Potential for Exposure

High-touch surfaces (score = 3)~~:~~

High-touch surfaces have frequent contact with hands. Examples include doorknobs, telephone, call bells, bedrails, light switches, wall areas around the toilet and edges of privacy curtains.

Low-touch surfaces (score = 1):

Low-touch surfaces have minimal contact with hands. Examples include walls, ceilings, mirrors.

**Step 2: Determine the total risk stratification score**

The frequency of cleaning is based on the factors listed above. A score is given if the factors are present, and the frequency of cleaning is based on the total score as derived in the following matrix:

**Risk Stratification Scores for *High-Touch Surfaces* (Score for Potential for Exposure = 3)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Probability of contamination with pathogens** | **More susceptible population (score = 1)** | **Less susceptible population  (score = 0)** |
| Heavy (score = 3) | 7 (3+3+1) | 6 (3+3+0) |
| Moderate (score = 2) | 6 (3+2+1) | 5 (3+2+0) |
| Light (score = 1) | 5 (3+1+1) | 4 (3+1+0) |

**Risk Stratification Scores for *Low-Touch Surfaces* (Score for Potential for Exposure = 1)**

| **Probability of contamination with pathogens** | **More susceptible population (score = 1)** | **Less susceptible population  (score = 0)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Heavy (score = 3) | 5 (1+3+1) | 4 (1+3+0) |
| Moderate (score = 2) | 4 (1+2+1) | 3 (1+2+0) |
| Light (score = 1) | 3 (1+1+1) | 2 (1+1+0) |

## STEP 3: Determine the cleaning frequency based on the risk stratification matrix:

Cleaning frequencies for each patient care area are derived from the total score that results from the risk stratification matrix above:

**Cleaning Frequencies Based on Total Risk Score**

| **Total Risk Score** | **Risk Type** | **Minimum Cleaning Frequency** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 7 | High Risk | Clean after each case/event/procedure and Clean additionally as required |
| 4-6 | Moderate Risk | Clean at least once daily  Clean additionally as required (e.g., gross soiling) |
| 2-3 | Low Risk | Clean according to a fixed schedule  Clean additionally as required (e.g., gross soiling) |

EXAMPLES:

| **Location** | **Probability of Contamination** | **Vulnerability of Population** | **Potential for Exposure** | **Total Score** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Burn unit | 3 | 1 | High-touch (3) | 7 |
| Low-touch (1) | 5 |
| General inpatient | 2 | 0 | High-touch (3) | 5 |
| Low-touch (1) | 3 |
| Intensive Care Unit | 2 | 1 | High-touch (3) | 6 |
| Low-touch (1) | 4 |
| Contact Precautions (*C auris, Acinetobacter*) | 2-3 | 1 | High-touch (3) | 6 |
| Low-touch (1) | 4-5 |
| Contact/Droplet/Airborne (?) Precautions (Coronavirus) | 2-3 | 1 | High-touch (3) | 6-7 |
| Low-touch (1) | 4-5 |