



Your Disinfection Experts Coronavirus Update

Hand hygiene critical in the fight against Covid-19

10th April 2020

Yesterday marked 100 days since WHO were first informed of “pneumonia with an unknown cause” in China. To date the number of confirmed infections of the novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) outbreak has now reached **1,603,330**. This shows an increase of more than **1,000,000** cases since our most recent newsletter of March 27th. This indicates the very high level of growth of the virus with cases approximately trebling globally in a 14 day period.

The total number of deaths globally has also increased in this period from **24,110** deaths (as per data reported by Johns Hopkins University 8:07am, March 27th) to **95,758** deaths (as per data reported by Johns Hopkins University 09:15am, April 10th).

Earlier this week, China moved from a two month containment period to mitigation stage. Their experience is being used around the world to help create the best possible response plans to Covid-19. However, as discussed above, the virus continues to spread rapidly worldwide. 209 countries and territories are now affected. WHO have now begun to group these areas based on how the virus has developed in the area in “No cases reported”, “Sporadic cases”, “Clusters of cases” or “Community transmission”. Updates on how areas have been classified can be found on WHO’s daily situation reports, which can be found on:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

On April 8th WHO published guidelines for businesses in the food industry, “Covid-19 and Food Safety: Guidelines for Food Businesses”. Recent research shows SARS-CoV-2 can survive for up to 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel, 24 hours on cardboard and 4 on copper. However, they have stated that it is highly unlikely that Covid-19 can be contracted through food and food packaging by consumers, and instead recommended focus on the importance of worker safety and hygiene in food processing areas. The report can be found at the link below

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/covid-19-and-food-safety-guidance-for-food-business>



WHO also released a Medical Product Alert that warns of the growing number of falsified medical products claiming to treat, cure, prevent or detect Covid-19. More information on these products can be found here: Ref. [RPO/REG/ISF/Alert N°4.2020](https://www.who.int/alerts/2020.04.01)

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) is now providing a searchable database containing the latest guidance and research on Covid-19 from the Americas and affected countries worldwide. <https://covid19-evidence.paho.org>

As we have discussed previously, hand hygiene remains critical in the fight against Covid-19 and WHO has released new technical guidance guidelines recommending universal access to public hand hygiene stands and making their use obligatory when entering or leaving any commercial building or public transport. The importance of hand hygiene in healthcare facilities was also emphasised. The guidelines can be read in full here:

[Recommendations to member state to improve hand hygiene](#)

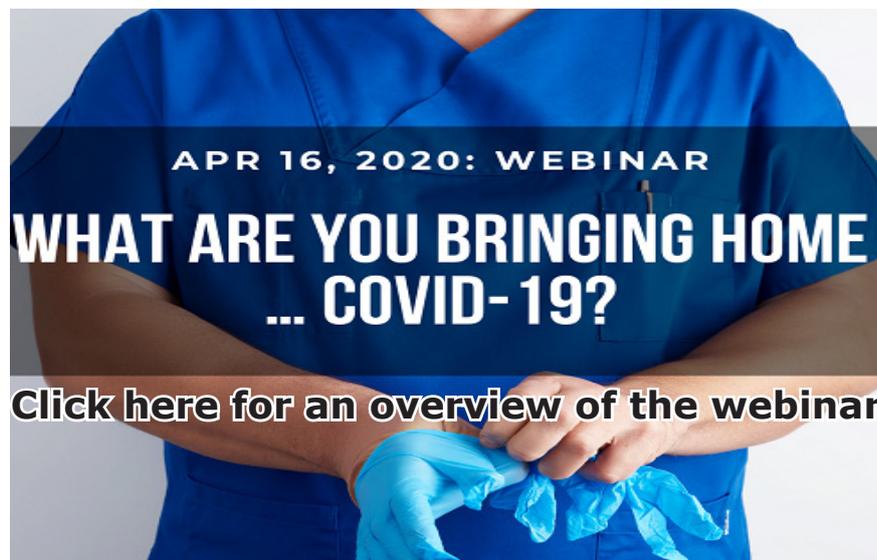
Furthermore, WHO have published guidelines on the rational use of PPE in health, home and cargo loading settings which can be read here: [Rational use of PPE](#)

Supply chain issues with PPE are being experienced worldwide, meaning more and more emphasis must be placed on hand and surface hygiene to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Join Michael Gately on April 16th, for an evidence and guidance webinar to review actions that can be taken to reduce risk from pathogens like COVID19

Register here: <https://masterseries.events/?portfolio=what-are-you-bringing-home-covid-19>



Please contact one of our experts for further information on our effective disinfectant products to help combat the spread of COVID-19:

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