



Dec. 2008

## SUSPECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

### General Guidelines for Cleaning Crew

The following are general guidelines for cleaning crew who has to clean an arriving aircraft with a suspected case of communicable disease.

During an outbreak of a specific communicable disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) or member states may modify or add further procedures to these general guidelines.

However, these general guidelines provide a basic framework of response to reassure the cleaning crew and help them manage such an event.

1. Wear impermeable disposable gloves.
2. Remove and discard gloves if they become soiled or damaged, and after cleaning.
3. Wash hands with soap and water immediately after gloves are removed. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used if the hands are not visibly soiled.
4. Surfaces to be cleaned (affected seat, adjacent seats same row, back of the seats in the row in front),
  - Armrests
  - Seatbacks (the plastic and/or metal part)
  - Tray tables
  - Light and air controls
  - Adjacent walls and windows
  - Individual video monitor
  - Lavatory(ies) used by the sick traveller: door handle, locking device, toilet seat, faucet, wash basin, adjacent walls and counter
5. Begin the cleaning at the top (light and air controls) and proceed downward progressively.
6. Disinfection of upholstery, carpets, or storage compartments is only indicated when they have been soiled by body fluids. In such cases, disinfect before vacuuming to eliminate the risk of re-aerosolization.
7. Use *only* cleaning agents and disinfectants that have been approved by aircraft manufacturers.
8. Dispose of soiled material and gloves in a biohazard bag if one is available. If not, use a sealed plastic bag and label it as biohazard.
9. Do not use compressed air. It might re-aerosolize infectious material.