Damp Wiping

PURPOSE:
To remove dirt and kill germs from surfaces in the health facility

MATERIALS:
• Disposable gloves
• If needed:
  - Disposable gown
  - Disposable mask with eye protection
• Prepared Cleaner/Disinfectant solution in cleaning bucket
• Container for dirty cloths (if using reusable cleaning cloths)
• Cleaning cloths (reusable or disposable)
CLEANING STEPS

1. **Do a Risk Assessment**
   - Determine risk of exposure to germs and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for the task.
   - Wear the correct PPE to safely do the job.

2. • Prepare fresh Cleaner/Disinfectant solution at the start of each shift.
   • Wet the cleaning cloth in the Cleaner/Disinfectant solution:
     - Squeeze the cleaning cloth so that it is wet but not dripping
     - Fold the cleaning cloth once or twice so that you have 2 clean sides to use.

3. • Wipe with the cleaning cloth in the folded position.
   • Never damp wipe with the cleaning cloth bunched up as this will dirty both sides of the cloth.
   • Avoid using a back and forth motion to prevent the cloth picking up dirt going one way and then dropping it off on the way back.
   • If using Cleaner/Disinfectant solution in a spray bottle, spray directly on the cleaning cloth.
• Unless a surface is very dirty, wiping each part of the surface ONCE is enough.

• Overlap your passes by 2-5 cm (1-2 inches) so that all areas are cleaned.

• Turn the folded cloth over as you damp wipe:
  - One surface for each major item in the room is a good guideline
  - Leave surfaces visibly WET to let the Cleaner/Disinfectant do its work in getting rid of germs.

• No double dipping into the clean solution container:
  - Never put used cleaning cloths back into the Cleaner/Disinfectant solution while damp wiping. This will help reduce germs in the cleaning solution and keep the solution doing its job.

• Change cleaning cloths as often as needed including when:
  - Cleaning cloth is no longer damp enough to leave surfaces wet
  - Both sides of a cloth have been used.

**Reusable Cloths:**
- Put used cleaning cloths into the container for dirty cloths so they can be laundered later.

**Disposable Cloths:**
- Put used cleaning cloths into garbage can immediately after you finish using them.
• The Cleaner/Disinfectant solution in the cleaning bucket MUST be changed after cleaning:
  - Any heavily soiled or dirty area
  - A spill of the blood or body fluids (vomit or feces)
  - Emergency/Trauma Room
  - Utility Room
  - Reprocessing (sterilization) area
  - 4 rooms
  - When the solution is visibly dirty or cloudy or has a bad smell.

• After finishing a room, remove gloves and other PPE and put them in the garbage before going to another room/area.
  • Do hand hygiene.

• Cleaning buckets need to be cleaned with Cleaner/Disinfectant solution at the end of the shift.

Reusable Cloths:
• All dirty cloths must be laundered at the end of each shift, and stored clean and dry.