

Aerospace Medical Association



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Claude Thibeault, M.D.
8500 Place Saint Charles #502
Brossard, QC J4X 2Z8
Medical Department
Canada

Re: Disinfectant materials for use during microbe epidemics

Dear Dr. Thibeault:

In recognition of the continuing progression of H5N1 Avian influenza, as well as the periodic detection of other novel infectious organisms, we provide the following recommendations to assist with the containment and control of infectious disease outbreaks.

Disinfectants used on aircraft must have appropriate antimicrobial efficacy and must be compatible with the aircraft materials to which they are applied. In addition, various application methods should be considered and must be appropriate for the aircraft cabin environment.

AsMA recommends that the World Health Organization, in conjunction with infectious disease ministries of member states, produce a list of disinfectant materials that are considered to be effective for general use on board aircraft, and for specific uses such as during novel microbe epidemics.

Furthermore, AsMA recommends that aircraft manufacturers publish to airlines lists of those products containing the effective disinfectants that are known to be compatible with aircraft materials, and inform airlines of the process for testing new antimicrobial products to determine their materials compatibility.

A joint effort, such as an ad hoc working group, which also includes appropriate airline representatives, would be an effective means of developing and communicating these lists to the appropriate organizations.

Sincerely,

John D. Hastings, M.D.
President