



THE CRITERION

Official Newsletter of the CBSPD

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A Message From: Sue S. McManus, PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees of the CBSPD is excited to announce the new additions to our Certificant Board of Directors. I want to share their names with you so you can become familiar with them. They are here to represent "you!" They have been provided a job description, so that they can perform their responsibilities within the framework of our overall objectives. They will be assigned a mentor from existing Board Members to assist them on this new journey, but they are welcome to ask any one of us for help.



**Kathy German
Management Representative,
Chambersburg, PA**



Leyla Ganchi
Ambulatory Surgery Representative,
Wayne, NJ



Lorraine Thornton
Flexible Endoscope Representative
Aurora, CO



Jenna Eckert
Technician Representative,
Flemington, NJ



Makeba Spigner
Surgical Instrument Specialist Representative,
Dayton, OH

CBSPD's President of the Board of Trustees Message, continued:

They are joining a great team. Several of the new Board members have been working within Sterile Processing for many years and some are more recent. We have a good range of information and fresh viewpoints that will make working together a rich experience.

We're all committed to welcoming them and helping them integrate successfully into the CBSPD Board of Directors. I want to emphasize that our deepest commitment is to our members, that is why we've succeeded as a Certification Board. It is great to have them and we are here to mentor, coach and learn from them. This is going to be great year for all of us. We thank them for joining the CBSPD Board of Directors.

Sue S. McManus
President
CBSPD
Board of Trustees

AAMI UPDATE

by: Nancy Chobin, RN, CFER, CSPM

The on-site meetings scheduled for mid-March were cancelled due to the Corona virus. It was proposed to have all the sessions via webinar but those were also cancelled. There has been no further update. Next scheduled meetings are in October, 2020.



RECERTIFICATION CORNER

Many certificants always ask us about how to maintain his/her certification. Here are some quick tips!

- 1) You can easily maintain your certification with CEUS, by submitting your programs for CEU approval within 6 weeks.
- 2) Find some free, CBSPD pre-approved and approved inservices on our website: <https://www.cbspd.net/in-service-resources/>
- 3) View our updated webpage for "Upcoming Programs."
- 4) Remember! We also have a Youtube Channel with a video on how to recertify as well. Learn more at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKry-DfvoNw&t=67s>

Item



Review

Are you looking to enhance your career? The CBSPD Item Writing and Item Review Committees are looking for your expertise and commitment! We are currently looking for Item Reviewers who are CBSPD certified and work in their respective field of certification to serve the Committees as subject matter experts. The term of service to the Committee is 5 years, and CEU's are awarded for each year of participation. Each Committee meets 1-2 times per year via online meetings. We are always welcoming new item writers as well! This is also an excellent opportunity to earn CEUs, as well as, sharing something new or challenging you have experienced on-the-job!

If you are CBSPD certified and are interested in serving on an Item Review Committee, or just want to earn CEUs by writing items, please contact us at: mailbox@sterileprocessing.org

**Amber Moore and Angela Jensen
Item Review/Item Writing Chairpersons**



**FIND
ANSWERS
QUICKLY
WITH OUR
NEW**

FAQ TAB

<https://www.cbspd.net/faqs/>

Safety in the Decontamination Area

Coronavirus vs COVID-19

****This inservice has CBSPD CEU approval for 1 contact hour. No approval code is needed.***

Experts refer to this coronavirus as the “novel coronavirus,” meaning it’s a new type of coronavirus that was not previously known or understood by health experts. COVID-19 is the illness caused by the novel coronavirus. COVID-19 can lead to major health problems like pneumonia and organ failure, and it can also cause issues like shortness of breath and fever. People who are at the highest risk for severe complications from COVID-19 are those who are over 65, anyone who may be immunocompromised, and

those with chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease.

There’s no specific treatment for COVID-19. Since it is a virus, it does not respond to antibiotics therefore until a vaccine becomes available, treatment aims to relieve the symptoms until the patient recovers. It’s not known exactly how COVID-19 spreads from person to person, but similar viruses are spread in cough droplets person-to-person.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath. Simple measures like washing your hands often with soap and water can help stop viruses like coronavirus COVID-19 spreading. However, we are learning of more symptoms as we deal with this virus more and more. The severity of coronaviruses can range from being mild — like the common cold — to more serious symptoms that can lead to hospitalization, like lung problems. Some examples of previous coronaviruses include Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Precautions

Person-to-person spread of the disease occurs:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not even showing symptoms.



What are the Precautions?

Standard Precautions -represents a philosophy that assumes that all patients are potentially infectious.

Transmission-based precautions might be necessary to prevent the transmission of specific diseases or microorganisms that are spread by contact, droplet, and airborne transmission.

Standard precautions contain key elements of infection prevention and control practices, such as hand hygiene and wearing PPE.

When required, transmission-based precautions supplement standard precautions, infection prevention and control practices such as hand hygiene and wearing PPE to avoid contact with contaminated items, blood, or other bodily fluids.

Standard Precautions is a group of infection prevention practices that apply to all patients, regardless of suspected or confirmed diagnosis or presumed infection status. It is a combination and expansion of Universal Precautions and Body Substance Isolation. Standard Precautions is based on the principle that all blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions except sweat, nonintact skin, and mucous membranes, may contain transmissible infectious agents. It includes hand hygiene, and depending on the anticipated exposure, use of gloves, gown, mask, eye protection, or face shield. Equipment or items in the patient environment likely to have been contaminated with infectious fluids must be handled in a manner to prevent transmission of infectious agents (e.g., wear gloves for handling, contain heavily soiled equipment, properly clean and disinfect or sterilize reusable equipment before use on another patient).” (CDC, 2007). In SPD, we follow standard precautions every day.

Importance of PPE

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should always be used in the Decontamination Area and when handling contaminated items. The CDC is strongly recommending the use of PPE but just as important is the need to know how to don (apply) or doff (remove) the PPE to ensure you are protected and do not contaminate yourself or your clothing. Kang, et al. (2017) discovered that healthcare personnel contaminated themselves in almost 80 percent of the PPE simulations!

Decontamination Safety

Current information indicates that the COVID-19 virus can live on hard surfaces for up to 72 hours. (CDC) and up to 24 hours on porous surfaces (e.g. cardboard). The predominant mode of transmission was from person to person (particularly those who were not exhibiting symptoms) not through contact with potentially infected surfaces. (Joseph Vinetz, professor of medicine, Yale University and infectious disease researcher). There is also poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces. Viruses need living tissue to grow. (USA Today 3-20-20).

inservice continued:

Transport containers, decontamination areas on the dirty side, and the PPE worn when handling instruments may be contaminated and the virus is more likely to survive in wet conditions. When manual cleaning, splashing can occur. Avoid spray faucets which can aerosolize. You must wear the correct PPE. Remember, no one has immunity to this particular virus. Complacency could cause serious illness among reprocessing personnel. (Cori Ofstead - Conversation with Julie Williamson 3-24-20).

You should never reuse your PPE or go without PPE. You need to be provided with the PPE needed to do your job safely. Remember, anything PPE used in manual cleaning is highly contaminated and should not be reused, unless it can be cleaned and disinfected or sterilized in ways that do not compromise the materials.

Masks - There is much confusion regarding the face masks needed in the Decontamination Area. A **Face Mask** - with or without a face shield, covers the user's nose and mouth and may or may not meet fluid barrier or filtration efficiency levels. A **Face Shield** is a device used to protect the user's eyes and face from bodily fluids, liquid splashes, or potentially infectious materials. Generally, a face shield is situated at the crown of the head and is constructed with plastic to cover the user's eyes and face. A **Surgical Mask** covers the user's nose and mouth and provides a physical barrier to fluids and particulate materials. The mask meets certain fluid barrier protection standards and Class I or Class II flammability tests. Then there are the N-95 respirators and N95 surgical respirators.

According to the CDC, "N-95 masks should be prioritized for health care practitioners in close contact (i.e. 6 feet) of patients known or suspect of COVID-19 during aerosol generating procedures and infectious diseases when airborne precautions should be followed.

If your facility has approved or required you wearing a N-95 mask (and they are available), you must be medically cleared and have fit training with competencies verified. Even regular face or surgical masks, if not worn correctly may not provide an adequate seal. As recommended by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), a fluid resistant surgical mask and face shield or goggles is recommended for the Decontamination Area. In addition, you need an impervious gown (level 3), as well as, decontamination gloves that are fitted at the wrist (to prevent fluid from entering the glove) and fluid resistant shoe covers. A head cover is not PPE but used to keep fallout from the head from getting into sets and the environment.

SUMMARY: The COVID-19 virus can be eliminated by methods routinely used in Sterile Processing Departments; high-level disinfection and sterilization. There is evidence the COVID-19 can survive on surfaces for hours or days if these surfaces are not cleaned and disinfected. We need to think about the potential for environmental contamination and personal exposure when we transport, handle and manually clean instruments and endoscopes that may have been exposed to COVID-19. The risk is no different than we have always faced in SPD. On a daily basis, we face pathogens such as MRSA, C. Difficile and other serious pathogens. As long as you practice the guidelines and policies to protect yourself, you will be safe.

inservice continued:

You must practice good hand hygiene and correct donning and doffing of PPE. Before leaving the decontamination area, remove all protective attire, being careful not to contaminate the clothing beneath or your skin. Thoroughly wash your hands, using soap and water and washing for a full 20 seconds making sure to wash the back of the hands and in between fingers. There should be designated areas for donning and removing protective attire and there should be a trash container readily available for the disposal of single-use PPE. The CDC has provided a list of disinfectants that are effective against the COVID-19 virus:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

However, you should not purchase or use any disinfectant without the knowledge and approval of your Infection Prevention Committee.

Follow the AAMI standards for PPE in your Decontamination Area and the CDC recommendations for social distancing and using a face mask when outside, depending on your local and state recommendations.

Remember, we are all in this together. Microorganisms can only harm us when we do not prepare for them and do not follow the recommendations to protect ourselves and our loved ones.



References:

Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation. "Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization and Sterility Assurance in Health Care Facilities - ST-79, 2017.

Williamson, J. (2020, March 27). Covid-19 with Cori Ofstead. Retrieved from <https://www.iahcsmm.org/iahcsmm-news/insights-covid-19-qanda-march-2020>

CDC website: Use of PPE in Healthcare Settings. www.cdc.gov.

CDC Guidelines for COVID-19, 2020.

QUIZ ON COVID-19

1) COVID-19 belongs to which family of microorganisms?

- A. Bacteria
- B. Viruses
- C. Fungi
- D. Parasites

2) The people at highest risk for complications to COVID-19 are:

- A. Children ages 6 months to 5 years
- B. Teens 13-19 years
- C. Adults 25-40 years
- D. Adults 65 years and over

3) The corona virus is spread via:

- A. body fluids.
- B. only blood.
- C. person to person.
- D. social distancing.



inservice quiz continued:

4) For hand washing to be effective, you need to wash your hands for how many seconds?

- A. 10
- B. 20
- C. 30
- D. 40

5) When washing hands:

- A. use a disinfectant soap
- B. use a hand sanitizer
- C. wash only the palms of the hands
- D. wash the entire surface including between the fingers.

6) The type of mask recommended for the Decontamination Area is a:

- A. N-95 respirator.
- B. cloth mask.
- C. fluid resistant mask.
- D. face mask.

TRUE OR FALSE

7) COVID-19 can live on solid surfaces for 72 hours. _____

8) SPD Personnel need to wear special PPE to protect from the corona virus. _____

9) A group of infection prevention practices that apply to all patients, regardless of suspected or confirmed diagnosis or presumed infection status is the definition of Standard Precautions. _____

10) No one has immunity to the COVID-19 virus. _____

End of quiz

****Reminder to All Upcoming November 2020 Re-certs****

Why re-take the exam when after working full time for 5 years, you only need 10 points of education per year to re-certify (except for Supervisors/Managers)?

If you became certified or re-certified in November 2015, you are due for re-certification in October 2020. Please have your completed re-certification packet with payment into the CBSPD office no later than 10/6/20.

The CBSPD e-mails and mails out re-certification packets 6 months before your certification is due to expire. If you have not received your packet yet, please contact our office to update your address and/or print one out from our Recertification page at:

<https://www.cbspd.net/recertification/>

If you're interested in the latest news in SPD and GI/Endo, announcements from the Board of Trustees & Certificant Board or maybe need a laugh, follow or like us on social media!



<https://www.facebook.com/theCBSPD>



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