

## Ensuring your personnel feels safe will be a key success factor of your restart after lockdown

A few days ago, a SME owner was interviewed by a journalist who asked him how his staff reacted to the idea of returning to work.

His answer was clear:

- Those who have continued to work have no problem with the idea of working in spite of the circumstances.
- For those who stayed at home, it is less obvious. They are much more afraid to return to work.

One of the keys to success will therefore be to give confidence to your staff.

This article, focusing on cleaning (and disinfection), presents some good practices without it costing you fortunes in these times when any expense must be scrutinized.

### The principles

- Cleaning must obviously contribute to avoiding possible contamination
- Cleaning must be (more) visible, which could involve a possible change in schedule
- Regular monitoring and quality audits will reassure your staff.
- To limit expenses, reduce low-frequency operations to the bare minimum. This will allow you to free up budget for disinfection operations.

Even if we must be careful, we should not exaggerate. So be reasonable and remember that everything you do in terms of cleaning will never replace the basic rules imposed by the authorities, such as social distancing and regular hand washing.

### Products for desinfection

- Use alcohol-based products (>65% and 85%).
- Alternative: bleach-based solutions.  
On the website of the Belgian Pharmaceutical Association ([www.apb.be](http://www.apb.be)) you will find a document called CORONAVIRUS\_JAVEL\_EN\_20\_03\_20.pdf.  
Attention, this solution is bad for the environment and is not good for cleaning. It is however a good disinfectant in the present circumstances. It can also cause discoloration.
- Finally, quaternary ammonium products can be used if no other solution is available. However, they are not always as effective as the first two options.

Remember: for regular cleaning, normal cleaning products are sufficient.

### Cleaning equipment

- Require the use of vacuum cleaners with absolute filter.

- Require your service provider not to spray cleaning products directly onto surfaces as this could create an aerosol effect. Spray on the wipes or use pre-impregnated wipes.

### **Before restart**

- Pay attention to Legionella  
After a long period of downtime, check your sanitary facilities. See the document prepared by Mensura ([www.mensura.be](http://www.mensura.be)) on “restarting sanitary facilities...”:  
<https://www.mensura.be/fr/redemarrer-apres-corona/soins-de-sante/mettre-lieu-de-travail-en-regle> (In French or Dutch only)
- During the lockdown period, dust has certainly settled on the surfaces, so a pre-start cleaning operation will be required.
- Place hand sanitizing stations in strategic locations but remind of the importance of regular hand washing.
- Hold open the doors that can be opened and see if it is necessary to place a device to open the doors with the elbow. There are “self-service” plans for 3D printing :  
<https://www.materialise.com/en/hands-free-door-opener/technical-information>
- Promote the use of stairs, which will reduce elevator occupancy.

### **The New « Regular » cleaning**

- Review cleaning programs, especially if the level and type of occupancy of buildings has changed.
- Review the stair and ramp cleaning program if you favour their use.
- Disinfection of contact points:  
Have those disinfected regularly but remind your staff that nothing will replace regular hand washing.
- The particular problem of showers and/or toilets:  
A single daily disinfection should be sufficient.  
However, you can make disinfectant (attention to theft) or bleach-based products available to disinfect WC boards, taps, shower heads and shower trays.

### **Reassure your employees by organising regular cleaning audits**

- Perform checks yourself
- Have an accredited organization (ISO 17020) perform visual cleanliness audits.
- Request “indirect” contact point disinfection controls.

For more information on quality controls, please contact IPSO:

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