

Procedure for Disinfecting Milkhouse Surfaces During COVID-19 Pandemic

Concentration Needed: 3,000 ppm of hydrogen peroxide solution is needed to kill coronavirus. Use without dilution hydrogen peroxide at 3% which can be purchased at the pharmacy. Alternatively, use 1 part hydrogen peroxide at 29% or 35% with 9 parts of water. Hydrogen peroxide at these concentrations can be purchased from your equipment dealer.

What you Need: Gloves, safety glasses, measuring cup, clean cloth and a properly labeled dark sprayer or spray bottle. Hydrogen peroxide should be stored in a dark container / away from light to avoid decomposition.

Safety First! Hydrogen peroxide can be corrosive if in contact with eyes and skin or toxic if ingested. Label appropriately any bottle and container with solution. It is a powerful oxidizing agent; when it comes in contact with organic material spontaneous combustion can occur particularly at high concentration. Do not mix with other chemicals.

What to Disinfect: Disinfect milkhouse surfaces that BTMGs, veterinarians or other visitors may come into contact with:

- Port for milk hose
- Bulk tank milk valves
- Control box buttons
- Ladders and rails (for example, bulk tank)
- Sampling dipper/spoon handle
- Rinsing hose/hose taps & nozzles
- Time Temperature Recorder surface
- Tank manhole: outside cover
- Desk/cover for BTMG record of information
- Sink and faucet handles, soap dispenser
- Door handles
- Chair

How to Disinfect: Clean surfaces prior to disinfection. Wipe electrical components, switches and plugs; spray all other surfaces. **A minimum of 10 minutes of contact time on the surfaces is required.** Post-rinsing is not needed.

Short-term alternative to hydrogen peroxide: If there are delays in sourcing hydrogen peroxide, a sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) solution at 5,000 ppm can be used. Use 1 part of household bleach (~5% sodium hypochlorite) with 9 parts of water. Alternatively, use 1 part milkhouse sanitizer chlorine (~12% sodium hypochlorite) with 24 parts of water. Please read the following warnings:

- **Safety** – Chlorine may irritate eyes and skin. Dangerous fumes form when mixed with other products, particularly acid and ammonia. Do not breathe fumes. Label appropriately any bottle and container with chlorine solution.
- **Damage to stainless steel** – At such high concentration prolonged use will cause pitting, rusting and yellowing. Allow 10 minutes of contact time and then rinse with water.
- **Milkhouse ventilation** – Open windows and turn on fans. Allow as much time as possible between disinfection and milk pick-up. Avoid milk rejection because of strong odours!

