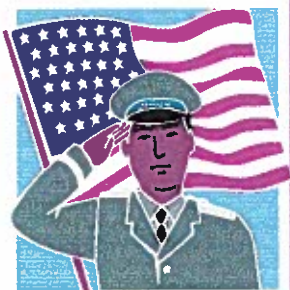


The Great Western News

May 2009

Protecting Our Facilities Against The Swine Flu



Ask Mr. Janitor :

There sure seems to be a lot of stress around here. We worry about the swine flu scare and staying healthy. We also worry about keeping our facilities as safe as possible from the swine flu epidemic. Do you have any thoughts on all of this?



Mr. Janitor Answers :

Let's take a brief look at both issues. There are steps we can take to tackle both of these issues. We want to do what is necessary to keep ourselves healthy and to keep our facilities as healthy as possible.

If you can remember 1976, you may recall the last swine flu epidemic we faced. There was the same type of attention being given the problem then as there is now. The good news about the 1976 swine flu epidemic is that it was much milder than expected. While many, many people did become ill; there was only one death within the United States directly attributed to the swine flu. While even one death is a tragedy, keep in mind that each year during our typical late fall and winter flu seasons here in the United States, we average approximately 36,000 deaths from the flu each year. We hope that the current swine flu epidemic is mild. Even with a mild epidemic as in 1976, many people will still become ill. We want to do all we can to minimize the spread of this flu to keep as many of us as healthy as possible. Let's take a look at some of the things we can do to minimize the spread of this flu.

Swine Flu (Swine Influenza) is a respiratory disease that is caused by type A influenza virus. Swine flu virus is spread the same ways that our seasonal flu outbreaks are spread. Influenza is spread person to person by those with the virus coughing and sneezing. People can also become infected by touching a surface with the flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose. The good news is that we have many disinfecting products that are effective against Influenza A virus. Here at Great Western Supply, we have over 19 different disinfecting, cleaning products that will kill Influenza A virus. We can fit the best product to your specific needs.

The important thing to keep in mind is that you need to act now. Comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting procedures are vital to minimizing the spread of this virus. Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces with a good detergent and disinfecting with an EPA registered disinfectant is critical.

Encourage those within your facility to practice good hygiene. Stress the importance of frequent hand washing as well as the use of alcohol based hand sanitizers. Controlling the spread of the swine flu virus is no different than the flu we deal with every year during the "flu season". Keep your hard surfaces clean and disinfected. Encourage frequent hand washing and the use of alcohol based hand sanitizers. If people are ill, let's hope they stay home to recover so they do not spread their germs to others within our facilities.

Please give us a call if you have any questions about the many EPA registered disinfecting products we stock. We can match the right product to your specific needs. Call us at our Davenport office at 563/445-6644 or in the Cedar Rapids area at 319/395-0445.

Please Note

Great Western Supply will be closed on Monday, May 25 to honor all who have served in the Armed Forces of The United States of America. We will reopen on Tuesday, May 26.



Great Western Supply Co.

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