

Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach as A Disinfectant in Field Outbreak Specimen Collection

The following published source provides documentation regarding the efficacy of sodium hypochlorite (5.25% household bleach in a 10% solution) as a general disinfectant in field outbreak investigations:

<http://www.who.int/infectious-disease-news/IDdocs/whocds200317/8collection.pdf>

The World Health Organization's *Guidelines for Collection of Specimens for Laboratory Testing* in the *Communicable Disease Toolkit, March 2003*, recommends chlorine bleach as the disinfectant for use in field outbreak investigations. ***Chlorine is the recommended disinfectant for use in field outbreak investigations. An all purpose disinfectant should have a concentration of 0.1% (=1 g/litre = 1000 ppm) of available chlorine, with a stronger solution of 0.5% (= 5 g/litre = 5000 ppm) used in situations such as suspected Lassa and Ebola virus outbreaks. Decontamination of surfaces: Wear an apron, heavy duty gloves and other barrier protection if needed, and wipe clean with an absorbent material. Disinfect surface by wiping clean with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach, then incinerate all absorbent material in heavy duty garbage bags.*** (See Annex 6, Page 10)