**Use of the WC *in Extremis*.**

The WC at EP is a potential hotspot for virus. Covid 19 has been detected in both liquid and solid human waste. When a wc is flushed an aerosol is generated which can then settle on other surfaces, particularly in a confined area.

The original thought was to shut the wc out of use, however some members have requested use of the wc “in an emergency” when no other arrangement is possible.

**Procedure**

The wc is to be kept by default locked. A key is in the key safe. This is to deter casual use.

In an “emergency” situation, obtain the key. After use you should sanitise all surfaces with your own anti-viral solution. A solution of ethanol or isopropyl alcohol or as below, is recommended. Keep the door open while you are doing this. When all surfaces have been sanitised (eg taps, seat, lever, lid, door handles etc), shut and lock the door and return the key to the key safe. HOWEVER, you take a gamble on whether the previous user has followed this cleaning procedure (as we know, there are some that can’t be bothered to even flush!). In this case you may consider doing the cleaning routine before use, as well as after. You are responsible for your own safety here.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**What kills the virus on surfaces...**

**Soap and water**

Soap and water are your first line of defence to remove the virus from surfaces. Soap interferes with the fats in the virus shell and lifts the virus from surfaces and this is then rinsed off by water. .

## Bleach

The active ingredient in bleach – sodium hypochlorite – is very effective at killing the virus. Make sure you leave the bleach to work for ten to 15 minutes then give the surface a wipe with a clean cloth.

## Surgical spirit

Surgical spirit is mostly made up of the alcohol ethanol. Ethanol has been shown to kill coronaviruses in as little as 30 seconds. Like bleach, the alcohol destroys the protein and RNA that the virus is made up of. Moisten a cloth with some neat surgical spirit and rub it over a surface. This will evaporate and you will not need to wipe it off. Unfortunately, surgical spirit is now in short supply and is unlikely to be found in supermarkets. More obscure pharmacies may still stock it. An alternative is 70% isopropyl alcohol .

**What removes virus from surfaces**

## Surface wipes.

## The active ingredient in surface wipes in an antiseptic –- usually benzalkonium chloride. The wipes work by physically removing bacteria and viruses through the pressure you apply when you use them, and the pathogens then attach to the wipe.

They also leave a layer of the antiseptic on the surface that works to kill bacteria.

**What doesn’t kill virus**

Antiseptics.

Products labelled only as “anti-bacterial”

Source: <https://www.sciencealert.com/here-s-the-expert-advice-on-which-cleaning-products-to-use-against-coronavirus>