Cooler Temperatures Shouldn't Freeze
Pest Prevention Measures

EBOLA
What Would Happen if it Came To Canada?

The Most Desired Skills of the Future
Three Practices to Communicate, Engage and Influence People
The truth is, C. difficile, MRSA and VRE may have been admitted to all these rooms.

- 33% of non-CDI rooms have tested positive for C. difficile.¹
- 55% of high-touch areas in patient rooms have tested positive for C. difficile.¹
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Urine is one of the toughest stains to clean and odours to remove.
New Clorox® Urine Remover breaks down urine to quickly eliminate odours and remove stains.

¹ Clorox Professional Products Company and ClearVoice Research (February 2012). Online Survey of Professional Cleaning Service Industry Decision Makers. (Survey of 933 cleaning industry decision makers across various industries)

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INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH
As cold weather descends on the nation’s K-12 schools, the non-profit Process Cleaning for Healthy Schools (PC4HS) group offers tips for choosing greener ways to de-ice concrete walkways, including newer installations.

INSIDE ISSA
Like its predecessors, the ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America 2014 once again succeeded in being the one week where key leaders and decision-makers in the commercial cleaning industry converged to take advantage of “the most efficient and informative way to find new opportunities and strengthen business connections.”

HAND HYGIENE
This summer, a virus spread across the United States and Canada that left hundreds of children infected with an ailment that required many to be hospitalized. The cases involved the Enterovirus D species, serotype 68 (EVD68 or EV68).

SARS was probably the last worldwide public health emergency before Ebola. But, with cases of Ebola reported in the United States, the concern many public health and professional cleaning personnel have is, what would happen if it came to Canada? (Page 18)

INFECTION CONTROL
EBOLA... What would happen if it came to Canada?

IN THE FIELD
Study the past to plan for the future. The Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning are a necessity in all situations.

NEW PRODUCT SHOWCASE
New products and technologies available to the industry.

INDUSTRY NEWS
News highlights from the industry.
Bunzl Canada is the leading national distributor of Cleaning & Hygiene, Disposable Supplies, Food Packaging and Safety products for businesses across Canada. Delivering solutions in 26 countries around the world, Bunzl brings innovation and proven best practices to our Canadian customer base. Headquartered in Burlington, Ontario, Bunzl Canada specializes in strategic sourcing and supply chain initiatives that drive total cost in use improvements for our clients.
How To Choose A Greener Ice-Melting Process

As cold weather descends on the nation’s K-12 schools, the non-profit Process Cleaning for Healthy Schools (PC4HS) group offers tips for choosing greener ways to de-ice concrete walkways, including newer installations.

Preliminary steps involve the prevention of ice forming by removing snow before it compacts and turns into ice, reducing the need for ice-melting chemicals and closing off - where legally permitted - unneeded walkways, sidewalks, exterior stairs and roads that accumulate snow.

If forecasts call for freezing rain, sleet and/or wet, heavy snow, spreading ice-melting compound before (pre-treating), during and after precipitation is most effective.

Develop, post and document a snow and ice-removal plan including equipment, ice-melting chemicals and application guidelines for timely response to weather events. Include ergonomic and safety tips (such as correct snow-shoveling technique and personal protective equipment [PPE] such as gloves, goggles, earplugs) to prevent worker injury. Non-chemical interventions to raise traction include sand, non-clumping cat litter and dolomitic limestone.

Where ice-melting chemicals are needed, Green Seal recommends using potassium chloride- or magnesium chloride-based products rather than sodium chloride or calcium chloride. Ice melts are often blends of these substances, so look for desired, major ingredients.

Exercise care near plants since all chlorides can be harmful to vegetation. Potassium chloride or magnesium chloride products are safer for plants, concrete and entryway flooring materials. Acetate-based products may also be safe options, especially for newer concrete, though possibly harmful to aquatic life. Urea (aka, nitrogen fertilizer) is safer for concrete, but does not work at low temperatures and can be harmful to waterways. For newer concrete, check with the concrete supplier or installer for specific de-icing recommendations.

Granular, pellet, crystal or other solid ice-melt products, coloured for visibility, can be helpful to provide traction and break bonds between ice and outdoor surfaces. Use a mechanical spreader for best coverage, and to avoid waste and skin exposure.

Liquid ice melt is helpful in preventing ice from forming. For steeply-sloped areas, use a sprayer and carefully control...
ISSA / INTERCLEAN® North America 2014 Strengthens Trend as One Week for the Cleaning Industry

Like its predecessors, ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America 2014 again succeeded in being the one week where key leaders and decision-makers in the commercial cleaning industry converged to take advantage of “the most efficient and informative way to find new opportunities and strengthen business connections,” according to attendee and exhibitor feedback.

“ISSA/INTERCLEAN is the one venue each year that facilitates an extraordinary number of business meetings with our distributor partners and end (user) customers from all over the world, while giving us the opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their business,” said John Swigart, president of Spartan Chemical Co. Inc.

The exhibition, co-produced by ISSA and its trade show partner Amsterdam RAI, attracted 14,123 registrants to the Orange County Convention Centre in Orlando, FL, Nov. 4 to 7, to view the newest products and services available from the show’s 685 exhibitors.

Not only were decision-makers from the industry’s top distributors, building service contractors and large purchasing organizations present, but more than 800 such organizations were represented that hadn’t participated in the event the previous year in Las Vegas, NV.

Of those new firms, 374 were distributors drawing from the southeast region, from outside of the United States and also from vertical markets, such as the office products, industrial and food service sectors. Their top reason for attending was to access product lines, market intelligence and executive education they couldn’t find at any other...
industry event.

The chance to connect with these new participants and sectors was not lost on this year’s exhibitors.

“This was a fantastic opportunity for us,” said Joyce Dudenhofer, marketing director at Haviland Corp. “We were well-positioned to show-off our products and meet with our customers. In fact, we closed with more leads, and connected with more distributors and wholesalers this year in Orlando than we did last year in Vegas. The show was a great success.”

In addition to the exhibition and ISSA’s convention seminars, four other industry groups held their annual conventions during the week: the Association of Residential Cleaning Services International (ARCSI), Building Service Contractors Association International (BSCAI), IEHA and the newest co-location partner Cleaning Trade Equipment Association (CETA).

The International Window Cleaners Association (IWCA) also hosted safety workshops for the first time during ISSA/INTERCLEAN, while readers and trainees from ISSA’s newly-acquired Cleaning Maintenance & Management® and Cleaning Maintenance Institute family of resources joined the event, to further expand the depth of purchasers represented.

In addition to ISSA’s efforts to attract a diverse group of industry influencers at this year’s event, the association also offered more reasons to stay longer into the week, culminating in a double-header of keynote speakers plus industry awards – Fri. No. 7. Champion basketball coach Rick Pitino kicked-off the day’s activities, and at the close of the exhibition, renowned boxer Sugar Ray Leonard headlined the ISSA Excellence Awards Luncheon.

Companies honoured included long-standing ISSA member companies, the 10 ISSA Best Customer Service Award winners as selected by buyers in attendance at the show (www.issa.com/bcsa), and the 10 winners of this year’s prestigious ISSA Innovation Award (www.issa.com/innovationwinners). The day ended with several seminars and, in all, the lineup succeeded in its goal of attracting more attendees to the show floor through its 1 p.m. close Friday than in prior years.

Additional show highlights include the following:

- Sixteen per cent of visitors hailed from 71 countries outside of the United States.
- The exhibition featured leading suppliers from 27 countries.
- Multiple industry professional received prestigious honours during the week (www.issa.com/issaawards).
- ISSA received an overwhelming positive response during the show, when it revealed the new Value of Clean Safety tool, which helps connect cleaning to reduced risk and liability and is free once companies join or renew membership for 2015 (visit www.issa.com/value).
- Many of the week’s seminars were packed to room limits and elicited feedback that the topics and speakers were top-quality and extremely relevant to attendee businesses. Participants can sign up for 24/7 access to this year’s sessions at www.issa.com/2014seminars.
- Attendees of the ISSA Infection Control sessions, added to address recent outbreaks, received a special Infection Control Response packet to use with customers (visit www.issa.com/infectioncontrolpacket).
- Many of ISSA’s more than 20,000 LinkedIn group members turned out for an in-person meet-up on Thursday near the ISSA Resource Centre.
- More than 4000 unique viewers logged in to www.issa.com to watch live excerpts from the event. Archived footage and interviews can be viewed at www.issa.com/live.

Given this year’s positive results, many participants are already looking forward to the next edition of the North American event, which takes place Oct. 20 to 23, 2015 in Las Vegas, NV. For more information on the ISSA/INTERCLEAN North America 2015 show, visit www.issa.com/lasvegas2015.
This summer, a virus spread across the United States and Canada that left hundreds of children infected with an ailment that required many to be hospitalized. The cause was the Enterovirus D species, serotype 68 (EVD68 or EV68). This virus is well-known to microbiologists, but has rarely grabbed media headlines. Yet for some reason, whether due to evolution or some other unresolved risk factor, the pathogen sparked concern for parents and public health officials alike.

Biologically, EV68 is classified as a member of the Enterovirus genus within the Picornaviridae family. This group of non-enveloped viruses includes a number of much better known species, including the common cold-causing rhinoviruses; the agent of hand, foot and mouth disease, the coxsackievirus; a form of viral meningitis, enterovirus A species, serotype 71 (EV 71); and most infamously, the polioviruses. All are ubiquitous in nature and have caused outbreaks in various areas of the world, primarily in clusters.

EV68 was first recognized in 1962 when four children became ill from a respiratory virus. Since then, the virus has gained significant study for its ability to infect and also spread. Due to its genetic similarity to both the rhinoviruses and the polioviruses, the Enterovirus has been suspected of not only causing cold-like symptoms, but worsening conditions including wheezing, respiratory distress and, quite possibly, acute flaccid paralysis.

While the clinical nature of EV68 infection has been and continues to be explored, the environmental survival of the virus has been less robust. It wasn’t until 2001 that environmental spread was even considered as a concern. By 2011 this had magnified due, in part, to an increase in cases in the Philippines, Japan, Europe and the United States.

By 2012, the virus was found in the waters of Hawaii. This confirmed that it could easily survive in the environment and could pose a risk for environmental spread.

With environmental persistence shown, the potential for spread indoors became apparent. In the context of fomites, standard disinfection tests have been established for the Picornaviruses and a plethora of products are now available to reduce the levels of these pathogens.

For skin, however, there are still gaps in...
our knowledge base. This has meant public health officials have been required to look back in time to identify the means necessary to inactivate or kill other Picornaviruses on hands.

The initial work stemmed back decades and was based on the model of poliovirus. In 1985, researchers learned the virus tended to bind tightly to the outer dermal layer albeit reversibly. In their hand-washing experiments, five-minutes of washing with soap and water was ineffective at achieving today’s requirement of four log10 reduction.

When other products were used in place of soap – including sand – the reduction was more efficient, but still ultimately ineffective. This led to the suggestion of using chemical additives to inactivate the virus.

In 1993, several hand disinfectants were tested against poliovirus. In this case, a wide scope of products was included with active ingredients such as ethanol, chlorhexidine gluconate, quaternary ammonium chlorides, hexachlorophene and tap water as a control. Unlike the 1985 study, hand-washing was conducted in a more realistic manner with a lathering time of only 10 seconds. Not surprisingly, none of the products could reach more than a two log10 reduction suggesting a need to think about viral load rather than efficacy of kill.

When hand sanitizers came around, they were thought to be superior to hand-washing. Yet, the same Picornavirus problems appeared to be apparent.

In 2005 researchers attempted to determine the ability of 62 per cent alcohol as well as a number of other organic acids on the survival of rhinovirus. Much like the poliovirus counterpart the reductions were minimal at best, and did little to prevent infection spread.

A silver lining did appear in 2010 in a study that attempted to mimic minimal contamination. When only 125 viruses were used and the amount of sanitizer was doubled, such that contact time was increased, efficacy was finally seen. But to get to that low load, prior hand-washing would have had to occur.

By looking at the nature of the virus, its transmission – which is primarily through respiratory droplets – and its excellent persistence in the environment and on human skin, the need for proper hand hygiene is apparent.

To accomplish this, one needs to ensure hand-washing and hand sanitizer use is performed after each consultation with an infected patient. This may be supplemented with hand sanitizer during consultation as per the five moments of hand hygiene, but cannot be considered to be fully protective. In addition, any contact with individuals other than the patient should be done after hand-washing and the use of hand sanitizer in combination is performed to reduce the potential for spread.

The wave of EVD68 has been a rather bad one, taking both the public and health officials off guard. At the individual level, an increased adherence to hand hygiene is needed to prevent transmission. Granted, the path forward may seem difficult in operations, but it is nonetheless feasible and necessary. Considering the health and lives of children are at stake, it’s undoubtedly worth the effort.

Download an Enterovirus poster (http://info.debgroup.com/Portals/169265/docs/G120239-Deb%20Enterovirus%20Poster.pdf) for more information on how to protect children from this virus.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jason Tetro is a microbiologist with over 25 years’ experience in research although he is better known in the public as The Germ Guy™. Tetro is a self-described germevangelist and strives to improve humanity’s relationship with germs. He writes for The Huffington Post Canada, Popular Science and other national and international media outlets. His science bestseller, The Germ Code (Random House/ Doubleday Canada) is now available on shelves across the nation. For more information, visit Tetro’s web site at http://jasontetro.com.
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The Most Desired Skills of the Future

Three Practices to Communicate, Engage and Influence People

How many parents have a toddler that can work an iPhone or iPad better than they can? What about the parents of teenage kids or young adults that cannot communicate except through texting, email or social media?

With technology constantly evolving, technical skills and know-how will be the most common skills among the working and business public – but the ability to communicate face-to-face will always be one of the most important aspects of business.

While younger generations preparing to enter the workforce should keep up with technology to remain relevant in today’s economy, they should also continue to practice and focus on perfecting their soft skills – communication, interpersonal interaction, influence, and personal effectiveness in a social and business setting. These abilities are the great differentiator in business of the future.

In order to develop these relevant skills and create the best team today and in the future, there are three things a leader can do. They include the following:

• Learn how to be a coach to your players. This, most likely, is not what your manager did for you;
• Identify what you want to coach;
• Commit and implement a true prac-
A practice program that requires the leader to participate.

LEARN TO COACH

The word “coaching” is used in business today as much as the word “culture.” But in the same way that “culture” is used in most organizations, it is merely a word with very little impact or “law.”

Leaders tell their managers to coach but they never teach them how to coach. Many managers may say, “I hire good people and then just let them do their jobs.” This strategy will suffice if a leader is content with never making their employees better.

In professional sports, a coach drafts the best player they can find and they commit everyday of their professional life to making them better. In business, it is the leader’s job to hire great people and make them better.

The key to start coaching is to change the mindset from managing to coaching. To accomplish this, the leader’s actions must change from a reactive approach - of getting involved when needed - to a proactive approach of getting involved before they are needed in order to prepare the employee to win.

WHAT TO COACH

A very important factor in coaching is understanding what to coach.

Leaders need to stop focusing on just product and industry knowledge, and begin to focus on perfecting the soft skills like communication, personal interaction, body language, voice inflection and the transfer of positive energy.

Envision what you consider great customer service and bad customer service, or what separates a top performer and a bottom performer. The most adept leaders have harnessed face-to-face communication.

In baseball’s World Series, the greatest players are still practicing the fundamentals, such as throwing and catching the ball. In business we must do the same, and practice repeatedly throughout the duration of a career. This includes the big and small parts (which really equal the big parts).

IMPLEMENT A PRACTICE PROGRAM

When one thinks of a practice program, they may instantly feel overwhelmed and attempt to outsource it. This is a big mis-

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cooler Temperatures Shouldn’t Freeze Pest Prevention Measures

By ALICE SINIA, Ph.D., Resident Entomologist – Regulatory/Lab Services, Orkin Canada

When colder weather starts to roll in, chances are pest prevention is not at the top of your to-do list. However, it should be. While some pests head south to escape the cold, others look for places that offer warmth, shelter, food and water, to call home for the cooler months. Unfortunately, many facilities offer plenty of all of these pest survival factors. That’s why it’s important to take steps to winterize your facility and to keep pests out this winter.

Rodents are a year-round threat, but are most active in the colder months. Additionally, these pests can spread dangerous disease-causing pathogens, like the Hantavirus, which can be transmitted by inhaling airborne particles from dried out rodent urine and droppings. Three common rodents are the house mouse, Norway rat and the roof rat, though other rodents like squirrels and field mice can also pose a threat to your facility.

HOUSE MOUSE

Despite its name, the house mouse is not just confined to residential homes. It is the smallest of the three, measuring between seven and nine-and-a-half centimetres long with an average weight of 22 grams. They are defined by dusty grey fur, small eyes and big ears. The house mouse is mostly known for its gnawing and chewing abilities; their chew marks can be found on corners of objects. Additionally, they reproduce rather rapidly; a typical pregnancy lasts an average of 21 days and can result in as many as six mice.

NORWAY RAT

The largest in its family, the Norway rat has shaggy fur that is brown or grey with scaly ears. They are typically between 18- to 25-centimetres long and weigh 150- to 500-grams. This rat will gnaw through many things to reach food and water, including wiring. This can lead to short circuits and even electrical fires. If there are gnaw marks on doors, wooden walls or other hard indoor surfaces, this is a great sign of a Norway rat infes-
tation in your building. Finally, they prefer to take refuge in lower levels, including basements, and favor a meat diet. Therefore they are often found in kitchens and garbage or compactor rooms.

**ROOF RAT**

Typically black or brown with a long tail, roof rats are smaller than Norway rats (about 16- to 20-centimetres long and weigh about 300 grams), but less picky about their meals. These omnivorous pests will eat just about anything, so they'll be attracted to your trash as much as your food offerings. Also, they are excellent climbers that can often be found in the upper parts of buildings. A great indicator of a roof rat infestation includes grease marks produced as the rodent travels along an edge, and the oils in their fur are rubbed along.

While rodents are the most well-known and typically most despised winter pest, they're certainly not the only pest that will be scrounging around your facility looking for a way to get out of the cold. As temperatures drop, spiders, cluster flies, boxelder bugs, stink bugs and squash bugs all rely on places like your facility to retreat to.

**LANDSCAPING MATTERS YEAR-ROUND**

Landscaping can contribute significantly to your facility's appeal to pests. Rats and mice don't like to be out in the open and often seek harbourage in shrubs and branches around buildings. Trim any vegetation surrounding your building back half a metre, and consider installing a gravel strip around the perimeter to further deter critters and insects from getting close.

**ELIMINATE AND PROTECT ENTRANCES**

Small cracks and crevices on the outside of a building might as well be an open door for pests. Mice can fit through holes the size of your pinky, meaning smaller pests need even less space to sneak in. Before and throughout winter, inspect the exterior of your building for any openings, seal them with a weather-resistant sealant, and add steel wool for an extra layer of protection against rodents that will gnaw through other materials.

Entrances and exits to buildings are easy targets for pests eager to get to warmth and shelter inside. Keep doors closed.

Nuisance wildlife, such as squirrels and chipmunks, will also be more noticeable. Note, special precaution should be taken when dealing with wildlife. Consult your local pest management provider for trapping and relocation requirements specific to your area.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to prevent these pests from making your facility a home this winter. First and foremost, implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. IPM uses proactive sanitation and maintenance steps to mitigate pests' access to their survival factors, thereby minimizing the potential for an infestation.

Your pest management professional will work closely with you to determine a tailored approach. They will take into consideration the nature of your building, its location and the structural/physical attributes that might attract pests. Together, you'll develop and implement a pest management plan designed to keep pests at bay all year long. IPM is an ongoing program and will ensure your facility is prepared to combat pests through the winter and beyond.

Check out these specific sanitation and maintenance steps as a guide to protect your facility against pest in colder weather.

A recent study in British Columbia of 218 deer mice showed 30 per cent were seropositive for *B. burgdorferi*, the agent of Lyme disease.

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**Continued On Page 30**
The Products You Need...

Serving Canadian Distributors From Coast-To-Coast
In February 2003, a doctor who had been treating people with atypical pneumonia cases in China flew to Hong Kong to attend his daughter’s wedding. He was staying in a local hotel when he began to develop symptoms similar to those of the patients he had been treating. In less than 24 hours, this illness, which would soon be known as severe acute respiratory syndrome - or SARS - would spread to approximately a dozen other hotel guests, including a 78-year-old woman from Canada.

The Canadian woman returned home to Toronto on Feb. 23, 2003 and, within days, started developing symptoms similar to those of the doctor. She died on Mar. 5, 2003 from the illness. From here, the SARS epidemic in Canada spread in two distinct outbreaks - one in April and then another in July 2003. According to the Canadian Environmental Health Atlas, “In total, 44 people in Canada died from SARS, approximately 400 became ill and 25,000 Toronto residents were placed in quarantine.”

While the SARS epidemic was actually very short lived, in total the World Health Organization (WHO) said more than 8000 people worldwide became sick with SARS and 774 died of the illness. Further, SARS had a devastating economic impact on Toronto. Tourism there sustained a $350 million loss, and retail sales declined by $380 million compared with
usual seasonal business.

SARS was probably the last worldwide public health emergency before Ebola. And, now with cases of Ebola reported in the United States, the concern many in public health and in the professional cleaning industry have is, what would happen if Ebola came to Canada? We saw how quickly and relatively easily SARS spread. This tells us that we cannot view the Ebola epidemic as something that is “happening over there,” referring to Africa, especially now that it has made its way to North American shores.1

CANADIAN PRECAUTIONS

Addressing concerns about Ebola, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper admitted that Canadian health officials are concerned about the spread of the disease in Canada but, at least as of August 2014, believe the risk to be low. However, Dr. Jay Keystone of Toronto General Hospital is very concerned about Ebola making its way into Canada, if for no other reason than it is, as he calls it, the worst outbreak the world has ever seen.

“It’s crossing borders because it is centred in cities instead of villages (in Africa),” Keystone said. “In villages, everybody leaves and soon it is over. In cities, it moves across borders (because) people are hiding their cases.”

While Prime Minister Harper maintains that “the risk is low” in Canada, the reality is that countries around the world, including Canada, are ramping up their efforts to stop the spread of the disease. At this time, most of these precautions are occurring at what are called “border entry points,” specifically airports. Canada has the Quarantine Act, a law that requires all travelers, including air travelers, to report any illness upon entering the country and requires airport authorities to identify any passengers they suspect of being sick.2

While this plan of action is far from infallible - and is very dependent on personal, subjective observation - it has proven effective in some cases. And now that Canadian border entry point authorities are being briefed on the signs and seriousness of Ebola, it is hoped that it will prove even more effective in the future.

Further, it is widely believed that the 2003 SARS outbreak was a wake-up call.
Infection control systems that were not available a decade ago are now in place to help stop the spread of infection. And, it is widely believed that Canadian medical facilities have some of the most sophisticated infection control systems in the world.

PREPARING THE CLEANING INDUSTRY

Just as did the healthcare sector in Canada, the professional cleaning industry in North America learned quite a bit from the SARS outbreak. For instance, many high-touch areas that were rarely cleaned in hotels and office buildings – everything from elevator push buttons to door handles – became part of every cleaning routine. However, the most important thing learned was how infections can spread and how the professional cleaning industry is the first – and one of the most vital – lines of defense against the spread of disease.

The first step in preparing the professional cleaning industry for any potential outbreaks of Ebola in this country is very simply to understand it. Understanding helps eliminate fears and misconceptions. For instance, there is a belief among many that just touching someone with Ebola can spread the disease. This is not true. However, if you have a cut on your skin or the infected person sneezes or coughs in your presence, then there is reason for concern – and it is a big concern. Often one of the first symptoms of Ebola is what is referred to as a “hacking cough,” which spreads the infection to other people and to all kinds of surfaces.

This leads us to the second way we can prepare for an Ebola outbreak or similar public health scare, and this is to try to avoid contact with surfaces when cleaning – whether directly or indirectly. Because this is serious stuff, we’re talking about here, let’s use the following descriptive scenario as an example:

Suppose a member of your cleaning crew was cleaning a toilet used by someone infected with Ebola, and let’s suppose Ebola germs and bacteria were present on the rim of the toilet or in the bowl water. By cleaning the toilet using traditional methods – cloths and spray bottles – there is the possibility that minuscule droplets of these germs and bacteria will come into contact with the cleaning worker’s eyes or be inhaled, finding their way onto mucus membranes. The risk is high and very serious.

To avoid this risk, possibly the best option for cleaning, especially for cleaning...
NO TIME TO WAIT

Very often when a public health scare develops in faraway parts of the world, not only is there a belief that it is just “happening over there,” but also few protections are implemented should it spread “over here.” The Canadian healthcare sector is not taking this approach with Ebola and neither should the professional cleaning industry. Preparedness now is key to minimizing the spread of this disease, here as well as around the globe.

FOOTNOTES

(1) As of October 2014, there have been three cases of Ebola in the United States. Two of the cases were individuals who had been working in parts of Africa where the disease had spread, and the third was someone who had been living in Liberia, West Africa.

(2) Under Canada’s Quarantine Act, which was re-written in 2005, all travelers to Canada must submit to screening, and if they believe they might have come into contact with a communicable disease, they must disclose this and their travel history to a border services officer. If the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the traveler may be infected with a communicable disease or if the traveler has refused to provide sufficient answers, the traveler may be arrested without warrant and isolated.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marc Ferguson is the International Business Development Manager for Kaivac, developers of the No-Touch® and OmniFlex® cleaning systems, which are sold in Canada. He may be reached through his company web site at www.kaivac.com.
It seems that everywhere you turn, the conversation eventually ends up directed to the Ebola pandemic in Africa. This is most certainly true in the health care industry, and not without reason as everyone is concerned with their health, as well as the health of their families.

On Mar. 23, 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) published formal notification on its web site of an outbreak of the Ebola virus in Guinea. On August 8, WHO declared the epidemic to be a “public health emergency of international concern.” This assessment traces the early origins and subsequent evolution of the epidemic, and considers where we stand today, looking at current outbreaks in each affected country and some overarching trends – and surprises – in the overall epidemic. It also gives epidemiological projections of how the epidemic is likely to evolve.

The WHO Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan, lists the following specific things:

• First – the outbreak spotlights the dangers of the world’s growing social and economic inequalities. The rich get the best care. The poor are left to die.

• Second – rumours and panic are spreading faster than the virus. This costs money. Ebola sparks nearly universal fear and vastly amplifies social disruption and economic losses well beyond the outbreak zones.

• Third – The World Bank estimates that the vast majority of economic losses during any outbreak arise from the uncoordinated and irrational efforts of the public to avoid infection.

• Fourth – When a deadly and dreaded virus hits the destitute and spirals out of control, the whole world is put at risk. Our 21st century societies are interconnected, interdependent and electronically wired together as never before. This became clear when the virus entered Nigeria’s oil and natural gas hub, the city of Port Harcourt. Nigeria is the world’s fourth largest supplier of natural gas. If that outbreak flares up again, it could dampen the economic outlook worldwide.

• Fifth – decades of neglect of fundamental health systems and services mean that a shock, such as an extreme weather event or a disease-run-wild, can bring a fragile country to its knees.

These systems cannot be built up during a crisis. Instead, they collapse. A dysfunctional health system also means zero population resilience to the range of shocks that our world is delivering, with ever
greater frequency and force - whether from a changing climate, armed violence and civil unrest, or a deadly and dreaded virus.

All of these facts may be confirmed in many news media outlets around the world. The public health professionals in the county I reside in have, over the years, predicted there would be such a pandemic.

The concern we now have relates to how do we stop this spread of the virus? The medical professionals are meeting and discussing how to best handle the prevention of this virus spreading into and throughout our country, if need be. The big risk to health care workers comes after they care for a patient with Ebola.

There has been mention that this virus is not airborne. I have read that the Ebola virus can live on doorknobs and countertops for a few hours. If there is a concern with bodily fluids, it presents the possibility that this should not only be treated as a hazard on contact and droplet precautions, even if it is just for the person’s peace of mind.

They are looking into ways to protect our frontline staff and the population that comes in contact with the host. There are many steps involved that would truly be an asset. In many cases the correct protective procedures would be a really good start.

This is where we really need to review the practices that worked when establishing the procedures that will bring infectious issues of any kind under control. The health of the person infected is in the hands of the medical professional. The environment around the infected person is in the hands of the environmental services cleaning professional.

The Best Practices of Environmental Cleaning is a necessity in all situations, but the procedures are extremely important when dealing with any infectious concern.

The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has spent countless hours developing, reviewing and publishing Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for the prevention and control of infections. This group of qualified experts has published a number of other Best Practice (BP) documents addressing various aspects of infection prevention and control practices across the health care continuum. With the publishing of the Best Practice for Environmental Cleaning, there was a need to train the frontline staff on these practices.

The Regional Infection Control Network (RICN) brought together the professional environmental managers from the Canadian Association of Environmental Management (CAEM) and the Ontario Health Care Housekeepers Association (OHHA) to combine their skills and talent, and develop the educational tool kit that included practical educational materials and tools to work with.

This toolkit was aimed at and developed for health care organizations. The modules located in the manual have a wide range of training practices, power point presentations, DVD’s that include narration of presentations, video training and dealing with cleaning in many areas of the health care industry.

The Environmental Cleaning Best Practices Educational Toolkit was rolled out in 2010.

With this new pandemic threat, it may well be time that this program is taken off the top shelf, dusted off, reviewed and, when addressing all infectious issue, the practices that should be followed daily are reinforced.

With the Best Practices documents in hand, health care organizations have the tools to address the infections that infringe on the world’s population. The concerns with infection control issues in health care are always on top of the list not only for work life, but also when it comes to training.

It would be awesome if all other areas had these capabilities. Who would be best suited to assist the other workers in areas that have been passed over because of financial restraints or other management directives? The housekeepers and hospitality employees in areas such as hotel/motel, restaurant, educational facilities and airlines need to have training to allow them the same knowledge, and implement procedures to protect themselves from infection control issues. Simply put, all environments that are exposed to any infectious diseases must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected on a continual basis.

I do not feel that all environmental staff working in the hospitality or educational industries would need full personal protective equipment, but they really need to know what steps should be taken and what they should be wearing to protect themselves in the event of an outbreak.

If appropriate procedures are followed across the continuum, it would quite likely put a stop to, or at least a tremendous strangle hold, on serious contamination.

What steps are in place to address training and what group would best be suited to oversee these workers?

Housekeeping and hospitality employees in all settings should be trained to perform their tasks on a routine and consistent basis following infection control guidelines to provide for a safe and sanitary environment for all they serve.
SCA TISSUE INTRODUCES NEW INDUSTRY INNOVATIONS

SCA, manufacturer of the Tork® brand of Away-from-Home professional hygiene products, has introduced a host of new products, line extensions and service offerings.

“At SCA, our customers expect us to bring new innovations that will have a positive effect on their bottom line,” said Cheryl Rickert, washroom marketing director for SCA’s Away-from-Home Professional Hygiene business in North America.

The company’s new Tork Premium liquid skincare products are dermatologically-tested, contain skin care ingredients which are said to be gentle on skin, and ideal for sensitive skin or skin exposed to frequent handwashing.

Also available in 2015 are Tork Premium soft multi-fold hand towels which are said to be a high-end alternative to standard washroom towels. Embossed with the signature Tork leaf design, the company claims patrons are sure to notice more than the product’s elegant design. With unique QuickDry™ technology and one-at-a-time dispensing, guests use fewer towels per visit and staff spends less time refilling product while still maintaining a clean, hygienic environment.

Available in 2015, are Tork’s Premium foam skincare products offered in fully-collapsible, easy dispense refill bottles that work with the sleek, modern Tork Elevation skincare dispenser. Each foam bottle contains 2500 doses, which is said to reduce the number of refills required, and saves maintenance staff time and resources.

Designed with a cohesive, elegant washroom experience in mind, the new Tork Elevation foam skincare dispensers are an ideal complement to the full line of El- elevation washroom products. The dispenser’s sealed refill bottles and single-use pump provide quick and easy maintenance, while reducing potential cross-contamination. The dispenser’s high capacity, one-litre bottle and LED indicators, which signal when a refill is required, are also said to reduce maintenance needs. Also available in an automatic model, the dispensers were carefully developed to make the restroom less hands-on with touchless dispensing options that help reduce customer contact and potential contamination.

KÄRCHER BR35/12 MICRO SCRUBBER WINS 2014 INNOVATION AWARD

Kärcher is pleased to announce that its BR 35/12 C Bp micro-scrubber won the 2014 Innovation Award in both the Equipment and Visitor’s Choice categories at the ISSA / INTERCLEAN® North America trade show in November.

The floor scrubber features a new steering concept (Kärcher Advanced Response Technology – KART), which is said to provide outstanding manoeuvrability as the steering wheel directly controls the machine’s brush head. The steering of the brush head dictates the travel and cleaning direction, while the propulsion force of the roller brush drives the machine forward. This is said to allow the user to clean away from walls at right angles and reach tight corners. Turning the brush head inward enables the machine to clean in reverse. The stainless steel steering column is height adjustable and can be folded-down for storage and transportation.

The machine’s roller brush is said to clean highly-structured floors efficiently, thanks to a small surface area ensuring high contact pressure. The roller brush can also be used for pre-sweeping, combining the functions of sweeping, scrubbing and drying in a single pass. A variety of roller brushes – such as pad or microfibre rollers – are also available for different floor types and cleaning applications.

The lithium-ion battery used in the micro-scrubber is said to be completely charged in three hours, allowing the user to work uninterrupted for more than an hour, or up to 90-minutes in “eco!efficiency” mode. “Eco!efficiency” is a selectable mode that allows the scrubber to operate at approximately 70 per cent of power and also reduces water consumption. In this mode, sound is said to be reduced by approximately 40 per cent.

For more information, contact Kärcher at www.karcher-na.com.

SPECTACULOSO® MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER IN FASTDRAW®

Betco Corporation® has announced the newest addition to its general cleaning family of products – SPECTACULOSO™ in FASTDRAW®

Spectaculoso is a lavender fragrance, multi-purpose cleaner, which is said to be ideal for leaving any room with a wonderful, clean scent.

“Here at Betco Corporation, Cleaning Innovations That Matter is more than just a tagline; it is the way we develop new products,” said Ken Sensel, Betco product manager – general cleaning / CMS and healthcare. “The new Spectaculoso multi-purpose cleaner in FASTDRAW expands the opportunity to leave a lasting impression of cleanliness.”

For more information, contact Betco at 1-888-40 BETCO (462-3826) or visit the company’s web at www.betco.com.
CHEMSPEC “GOLD STANDARD” PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

The first of Chemspec’s new re-branded products are ready to ship to distributors across North America.

The new Gold Standard products carry the same SKU codes as the products they replace. In many cases, this refined line features the same, best-in-class formulations used in previous Chemspec products.

The company also re-formulated or added a few products to ensure a complete line that maximizes the effectiveness of today’s high performance cleaning equipment while reducing maintenance costs.

Chemspec Gold Standard products also help to protect carpet investment, maintain the manufacturer’s warranty and provide maximum cleaning performance. Chemspec formulates products based on a thorough understanding of the technologies and materials carpet mills use to engineer carpets, both past and present, and with a close eye on future trends.

Chemspec’s Gold Standard labels use quick-identification application icons to simplify product selection for cleaners, while providing easy-to-navigate English, French and Spanish directions.

For more information, contact Chemspec at support@chemspecworld.com or visit the company’s web site at www.chemspecworld.com.

CASCADES TISSUE GROUP LAUNCHES NEW TANDEM+ TOWEL AND TISSUE DISPENSING SYSTEM

Cascades Tissue Group has introduced a new towel and tissue dispensing system – Tandem+. Sleek, stylish and created for performance, the system is designed to be the ideal solution for facility managers looking to manage operating costs while providing employees, customers and other patrons of their restrooms, experiences that reflect well on their businesses and show that they care.

The system is said to feature touchless, controlled dispensing that reduces cross-contamination of germs as well as unnecessary paper consumption. In addition to being one of the most compact, high-capacity dispensers on the market, it facilitates jumbo-sized paper rolls greater than 305 metres (1000 feet) in length to dry more hands with less routine maintenance.

According to the company, the system is compatible with Cascades’ full assortment of away-from-home paper towel products, including its patented, award-winning antibacterial paper towel that is said to kill bacteria on hands.

“Tandem+ is all about simultaneously bringing about healthier people and bottom lines,” said Jean Jobin, Cascades Tissue Group president and chief operating officer. “Developed with our partners’ needs in mind, it addresses all of their main challenges, reducing maintenance and labour costs while facilitating productivity and hygiene. All of this combines with one of the most sustainable paper offerings on the market.”

Available in white and black to fit any décor, Tandem+ includes a customizable OnDisplay™ window that allows facility managers to swap in and out signage promoting their brands, activities or offerings on a rotating basis, or to simply remind users about sound hygiene practices.

“Washrooms are high-traffic environments where businesses can educate and communicate to their audiences, so we see great opportunity for our customers,” Jobin said.

For more information, visit the Cascades’ web site at www.afh.cascades.com.

DEB LAUNCHES POWERFUL LINE OF HEAVY-DUTY AUTOMOTIVE HAND CLEANERS

Deb Group has introduced a complete line of heavy-duty hand cleaners designed specifically for the automotive aftermarket industry. KrestoGT offers advanced and powerful products formulated to protect, clean and restore technicians’ hard-working hands.

The heavy-duty hand cleaner contains all-natural, biodegradable scrubbers with no harsh solvents or sharp scrubber materials – keeping even the grimiest hands not only clean, but healthy and productive as well.

The issue of occupational dermatitis (acute skin problems caused by exposure to harsh chemicals) is specifically pressing in the automotive environment, where workers rely on their hands and often cannot wear personal protective equipment like gloves.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), up to 40 per cent of workers will suffer from occupational dermatitis at some point in their working life. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics data shows that roughly 50 per cent of all working time lost to industrial illness is due to dermatitis, which can result in an average of two months away from work. This can have a huge impact on shop productivity and profitability.

“The automotive industry is flooded with a multitude of low-quality hand cleaners,” said Michael Bogdanski, CEO of Deb North America. “These cleaners are often formulated with heavy and dangerous solvents like petroleum distillates and harsh scrubbing particles like pumice that may severely irritate and damage the skin. Additionally, some service repair professionals use technical solvents like thinners or even kerosene to remove tough materials from their hands, which not only break down the skin, but contain toxins that can be harmful to the body. The new KrestoGT range features heavy-duty hand cleaning products that are free of petroleum distillates, contain skin-friendly scrubbers and VOC compliant ingredients. As such KrestoGT products are extremely effective and safe for cleaning and protecting workers’ hands.”

Developed with the advanced technical expertise of Deb who market familiar and best-selling products such as Kresto®, GrittyFOAM® and Travabon®, the new KrestoGT line is said to offer high performance skin care products for the automotive industry at a great value. New products include KrestoGT Orange Boost and GrestoGT Cherry Turbo. These formulations are available in gallon, half-gallon, two-litre cartridge and wipe formats that address the removal of a broad range of automotive contaminants. KrestoGT Paint Shop is said to be an advanced formulation specifically designed to remove extra tough soils such as paint, tar and adhesives.

The KrestoGT line of products will be available for purchase in January 2015.

For more information, contact Deb at www.KrestoGT.com.

SAFE OPTIONS FOR SLIPPERY WORKPLACES FROM STABILGEAR

Every hands-on occupation poses its own dangers, and for janitorial and sanitation professionals, slippery floors are a major workplace hazard. STABILGEAR’s STABILgrip™ footwear products are said to be ideal for a variety of indoor environments where water, soap and grease increase the risk of slips and falls.

The footwear can be pulled on immediately after cleaning a wet area, or when wet conditions persist in a workplace. The footwear protects, clean and restore technicians’ hard-working hands.

For more information, contact Deb at www.KrestoGT.com.
Sanitation Canada - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

CLEANING PROFESSIONALS REMINDED THAT EBOLA IS NOT OUR ONLY PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

While the dreadful spread of Ebola is getting a lot of news attention at the moment, Tom Morrison, vice president of marketing for Kaivac, said we should not forget that Ebola is not our only concern.

“For instance, here in Ohio, Enterovirus D68 is a very big concern and certainly not getting the media attention and awareness it deserves,” Morrison said.

Enterovirus D68 – or EVD68 – is one of more than 100 non-polo viruses, first identified in California in 1962. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mild symptoms of the disease include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches. However, severe symptoms may include wheezing and considerable difficulty breathing.

“What makes Enterovirus D68 so alarming is that it is spread person-to-person – similar to the flu or cold – when an infected person coughs, sneezes or touches a surface that is later touched by others,” Morrison said. “And, like many viruses, it can be spread without someone showing any symptoms or even knowing they are sick.”

On the other hand, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that Ebola spreads through frequent and direct contact communications at Shaw, and has been with the company since 1991. Farris currently serves as chairperson of the Asthma, Allergy and Dust Task Group and also works closely with the EPR Communications Task Group, which supports CRI lobbying efforts across the United States.

John Garger, who passed away earlier this year, was honoured with The Chairman’s Award for his long-time service to CRI. The award was accepted by his wife, Ginny, and daughters Jessi and Brittany. “(Garger) always went the extra mile for CRI,” Yarbrough said. “He was a wonderful volunteer and a great friend to the industry.”

At the close of the meeting, Yarbrough thanked David Jolly for his leadership as CRI chairman of the board and welcomed Dan Frierson, chairman and CEO of The Dixie Group, as the new CRI chairman.

DEB GROUP DONATES HAND SANITIZER FOR WEST AFRICA

Deb Group has donated more than 18,000 bottles of Deb InstantFOAM hand sanitizer to the World Health Organization (WHO) to assist efforts in combating the spread of Ebola virus in West African countries.

Organized by WHO and supported by members of Private Organizations for Patient Safety (POPS), of which Deb Group is a founding member, the donation initiative is necessitated to support those healthcare providers and communities directly involved with handling the deadly Ebola epidemic that has already claimed over 4500 lives.

While Ebola has a high mortality rate, the virus itself is easy to inactivate outside the body by soap, alcohol-based disinfectants, bleach, sunlight, and high temperatures or drying. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, “Ebola virus survives only a short time on surfaces that are in the sun or have dried. It can survive for a longer time on clothes or materials which have been stained with blood or other bodily fluids.”

Ebola is an ‘enveloped’ virus which belongs to the family Filoviridae. There is no FDA-approved vaccine available for Ebola. However, the CDC recommends washing hands frequently or using an alcohol-based sanitizer. For many healthcare providers and communities dealing with the Ebola virus, hand hygiene is an important part of a multi-faceted infection prevention program. However, the availability of soap and water is not always possible or convenient. Therefore, the use of alcohol-based disinfectants, which require no soap or water, can often be the easiest, quickest and most convenient method of infection prevention.

Continued On Page 28
IICRC AND FCICA PARTNER TO PROMOTE FLOOR COVERING AWARENESS

The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC), an international standard-setting, non-profit organization for the inspection, cleaning and restoration industries, has announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Flooring Contractors Association (FCICA). As part of the recently approved MoU, the partnership will allow both organizations to combine their expertise, and openly collaborate in providing best practices and awareness in the floor covering industry.

“Partnering with an organization like the FCICA allows the Institute to take a step forward and reach a new audience,” said IICRC Chairman Tony Wheelwright. “This is a great opportunity and we are excited to see what this partnership brings to the future of our combined industries.”

Through the memorandum, the IICRC and FCICA will work together to raise awareness of their collective industries, and maintain an open dialogue in the sharing of industry knowledge and resources. As part of the agreement, both organizations will also cross promote their educational programs and cooperate on expanding internationally.

“FCICA is pleased to be able to work in partnership with the IICRC,” said Kim Oderkirk, FCICA executive vice president. “We plan to educate our membership on IICRC and work together on commercial flooring issues like maintenance. In addition, the IICRC will recognize FCICA’s education sessions and webinars as continuing education credits for IICRC certifications. That’s very important to us.”

PROTEAM WINS BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD AT TRADE SHOW

ProTeam®, recognized for innovative vacuum technology, was awarded the Best Customer Service Award at ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America 2014. ProTeam won along with nine other exhibitors after receiving the most votes from show attendees for delivering what ISSA called “exemplary customer contact” at the show.

“This award would not have been possible without the efforts of our sales team, customer service and engineering departments, and our representatives, both at the show and what they do on a day-to-day basis,” said ProTeam President and CEO, Matt Wood. “I can say with certainty, we would not have won this award if we did not go above and beyond for our customers in the daily conduct of our business.”

Distributors, building service contractors and in-house cleaning service providers were among the voters who used ISSA’s mobile app to vote. They were asked to choose which exhibitor’s staff was most knowledgeable, helpful and provided outstanding customer support during the event.

ProTeam was also presented with this award at the 2010 and 2011 ISSA/INTERCLEAN trade shows. Other companies who were recognized this year include: 3M Commercial Solutions Division; A.R. North America Inc.; Abco Products Co.; Advance; CleanTelligent Software; Expanded Technologies Corp.; J & M Technologies Inc.; Rep Toolkit; and Step1 Software Solutions.

SNOTTY HANDS / SLEEVES CITED AS THE “GROSSEST” HYGIENE-RELATED OFFICE BEHAVIOUR

It’s cold and flu season, which means offices and workplaces across North America will fill with a symphony of coughs, sneezes and nose blows. While these noises can be distracting and lead to the spread of viruses and bacteria, they can also be downright gross.

To identify which behaviour staff cites as the “grossest,” Cintas Corporation facilitated a survey conducted online by Harris Poll from Oct. 23 to 27, 2014 among 2011 adults, aged 18 and older. The study found that of the 81 per cent of those who have witnessed a gross workplace habit, the majority concluded that the act of wiping a runny nose on one’s hands or sleeve is the grossest.

“The top five “grossest” cold and flu behaviours include the following:

• Wiping runny nose on hands or sleeve – 16 percent.
• Not covering mouth/nose when sneezing – 15 percent.
• Not covering mouth when coughing – 12 percent.
• Not washing hands frequently – nine percent.
• Leaving dirty tissues on desk – eight percent.

Survey respondents also cited a hacking cough, touching common-area surfaces while sick, persistent sniffing without blowing and nose blowing in general, as other gross cold and flu hygiene-related behaviours.
GOJO PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

The 2014 Sustainable Strategies and Innovation Conference - part of Sustainatopia - featured Nicole Koharik, GOJO Global Sustainability marketing director, as part of its “Deep Dive on all Things Supply Chain” session.

The conference, held at the Hyatt Regency in Century City, LA, from Oct. 29 to 31, is one of five being administered by Sustainatopia. Each conference is designed to educate, and create global participation and collaboration for individuals from all walks of life with one common interest: preserving the planet for future generations.

For GOJO, sustainability has been a part of its story since it was founded in 1946. Company founders, Goldie and Jerry Lippman, instilled a culture of practicality, resourcefulness, perseverance and social awareness. Today, that culture remains vibrant and sustainability plays a pivotal role in how the company operates.

“Sustainability is inherent in the GOJO Purpose – Saving Lives and Making Life Better through Well-Being Solutions,” Koharik said. “Our purpose drives the company’s commitment towards greater social, environmental and economic sustainability. It has created products, processes and programs that benefit our customers.”

In her panel discussion, Koharik discussed:
• The GOJO approach to generating “sustainable value” for its business and its stakeholders;
• Evolving customer sustainability preferences and requirements across markets; and,
• How supply chain collaboration is accelerating sustainable product innovation.

The company incorporates sustainability into all areas of its business, including its supply chain, and it made many sustainability advancements, including:
• Generating a 35 per cent improvement in hand hygiene delivered in equivalent uses relative to the 2010 per-use rate;
• Promoting public health through collaborations to deliver products to regions with extreme needs; and
• Establishing its first generation sustainable chemistry and packaging policies to guide sustainable design thinking, and decisions to drive continuous improvements to the product portfolio.

To learn more about GOJO and its sustainability efforts, go to www.GOJO.com/sustainability-report-2013.

SNOTTY HANDS / SLEEVES CITED AS THE “GROSSEST” HYGIENE-RELATED OFFICE BEHAVIOUR

While respondents were also given the opportunity to submit “other” gross behaviours, most of them focused on a lack of basic hand-hygiene. A few of the other highlights include: “blowing nose into the sink,” “spitting in trash can or sink,” and “the fact that they are there at all.”

To minimize one’s risk of getting sick this winter season, the following hand hygiene practices are recommended:

1. Always use soap when washing hands, and be sure to scrub for a minimum of 15 to 30 seconds to effectively remove germs.
2. Use hand-sanitizer in addition to - not in place of - handwashing as sanitizers are not as effective as soap and water at removing germs and bacteria.
3. Always dry hands after washing as germs and bacteria can be more easily transferred to and from wet hands.
4. Dry hands with paper towels instead of air dryers to help remove germs and bacteria, as air dryers can increase bacteria counts.

Although hand-hygiene is an important step in preventing the spread of infections and bacteria, facilities also need to plan for additional cleaning and disinfection during cold and flu season,” added Mesko. “Make sure your facility is ready with the proper cleaning tools, cleaning chemicals and techniques to ensure a healthy workplace.”

DEB GROUP DONATES HAND SANITIZER FOR WEST AFRICA

Continued From Page 26

method for providing effective hand hygiene.

“Deb InstantFOAM hand sanitizer is an FDA approved alcohol-based sanitizer and has been independently tested as being effective against enveloped viruses. According to Bryan Anderson, Deb Group CEO, “The Ebola outbreak is devastating.”

“Deb, along with other POPS partners, is working with WHO to share resources with countries currently in need of hand sanitizer products,” he said. “Iven we have a product that meets the FDA guidelines, we have provided a donation to the WHO for distribution to wherever it is needed in West Africa.”

CLEANING PROFESSIONALS REMINDED THAT EBOLA IS NOT OUR ONLY PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

with bodily fluids, and is usually spread only by someone who is showing symptoms.

Morrison said that we should also not overlook seasonal illnesses like the flu. The flu kills an estimated 36,000 people a year in the United States alone, according to the CDC. However, most of these deaths are caused by complications from the flu due to weakened immune systems.

“As it has in the past, the professional cleaning industry is going to play a major role in protecting health, whether it is Ebola, Enterovirus or the flu,” he said.

“We must never forget that goal number one for of our industry is to protect human health.”

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**Cooler Temperatures Shouldn’t Freeze Pest Prevention Measures**

whenever possible and consider installing automatic doors where appropriate. If you have a designated shipping and receiving area, plastic strip curtains can help deter pests. Also, make sure all shipments are inspected upon arrival for signs of pests, such as gnaw marks, droppings or pests themselves.

**HAVE A WRITTEN SANITATION PLAN**

You should have a written sanitation plan that defines specific roles and responsibilities and includes a daily cleaning routine. The warmth and shelter your facility offers will be enough to draw pests in for the winter, but the food and water they find inside will keep them there.

Sweep, mop and vacuum floors regularly to eliminate any food sources. Create a deep clean schedule to clean behind and under heavy equipment, as well as hard to reach areas. Dirt and grime can easily accumulate in these areas, which also serve as good hiding places for pests. Work with your staff to make sure employee break areas are kept clean and uncluttered.

**CLEAN AND ROTATE TRASH CANS**

This simple, yet often overlooked step, can help reduce wildlife, rodents and other pest pressures. Trash cans should have tight-fitting lids with straps or clamps to hold them shut. Since raccoons enjoy the all-night buffet a trash can may have, it's best to use ones made of tough materials such as metal or hard plastics. Remember to keep dumpsters and trash as far from the property as possible, and tie loose trash cans to a support or place them in a rack where they can’t be tipped over. Rather than leaving it near the building where it can attract pests, regularly take out the trash.

Pests can cause problems for your facility year-round. Taking steps to winterize against pests will keep you protected during the colder months, when pests are more likely to sneak in unnoticed. Being proactive can also help reduce pest pressures when the temperature eventually warms up. Keeping pest management a priority this winter can help freeze any pest activity around your facility.

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**SAFE OPTIONS FOR SLIPPERY WORKPLACES FROM STABILGAR**

or off any shoe, and are transferable among staff, making them the ideal cost-effective alternative to a full shoe non-slip product. STABILgripers employ a proprietary rubber tread that is said to provide superior non-slip traction. The innovative upper portion is made from thermal plastic elastomer, which keeps the footwear securely affixed to the bottom of a shoe or boot.

For more information, visit the STABILgear web site at www.stabilgear.com.

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**How To Choose A Greener Ice-Melting Process**

the spray to avoid unwanted application or exposure.

Since ice-melting products are temperature specific with distinct traits, read labels and select those that meet temperature and other criteria.

The U.S. EPA’s Design for the Environment (DfE) program notes environmentally-safer ice melting products at www.epa.gov/dfe.

According to Allen Rathey, interim executive director and communications director for PC4HS, “Environmentally-speaking, there are no perfect ice melting compounds, and prevention or removal is best where possible.”
It all comes down to quality.

“After extensive testing over the years, Buckeye floor finishes have proven to be the best. The shine and durability stand out and they do not turn yellow! The labor savings we realize because of these features are the icing on the cake.”

~ Lake Washington Institute of Technology
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Casey Huebner
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