Sam Houston State University Science Annex

Surface Disinfection

SOP #: FM-002

Date adopted : _____

Last revision : _____

Purpose

To explain the appropriate procedures for disinfecting hard, non-porous surfaces.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Science Annex Operations Manager to clean and disinfect multiple surfaces on a daily basis in order to prevent contamination. Disinfection involves the elimination of the majority of microorganisms on a surface, however it is not synonymous with sterilization, which is a total removal of all living organisms from a surface and is usually associated with heat or pressure. For most laboratory applications, disinfection will suffice.

Procedures

The surface to be disinfected is first cleaned of all residual debris. An all-purpose cleaner and paper towel may suffice for this purpose, otherwise dish soap and a scrub brush may be used. It must be noted that most general purpose cleaners are not disinfectants and that cleaning and disinfecting are two separate processes.

Once the surface has been cleaned and dried a commercial disinfectant like Lysol or Simple Green is applied liberally and left to taken action for the recommended time period. If necessary, the solution is then wiped off with a clean paper towel.

For animal contact surfaces, commercial disinfectants may be too harsh and ethanol or a veterinary disinfectant such as F10-SC, Clidox or a chlorhexidine solution should be used instead.

The products mentioned in this document are examples of approved disinfectants, but are by no means a comprehensive list.