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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2015.07.040

Disinfection of reusable elastomeric respirators by health care workers: A feasibility study and development of standard operating procedure

To the Editor:

We thank the authors for their comments about disinfection of medical equipment with chlorine. In contrast with our work, they engaged a small number of staff in extensive training to prepare for safe handling of a small number of highly contagious patients with Ebola virus disease. They do not present their standard operating procedure, but they state that they used bleach solutions with a chlorine concentration of 5,000 ppm, as recommended by the World Health Organization. In contrast with their program, which relied on extensive training of personnel, our work was aimed at developing a standard operating procedure to be used in the event of a pandemic of respiratory illness, especially influenza. Anticipating a large surge of patients, and the possibility of very limited staffing caused by illness among health care workers, we aimed to develop a standard operating procedure that could be deployed with minimal training. We used chlorine concentrations of 50-400 ppm, as recommended by manufacturers of elastomeric respirators. The contrasts between the 2 programs illustrate the range of applications for standard operating procedures to address different clinical needs. We are pleased to learn of the success of their program.

Conflicts of interest: None to report.

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2015.08.001

Letter to the editor regarding "The prevalence and influencing factors of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus* aureus carriage in people in contact with livestock: A systematic review"

To the Editor:

We thank Liu et al[1] for their meta-analysis on the prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) carriage among persons in contact with livestock. Although the results are interesting, the extreme heterogeneity ($I^2 = 96.9\%$) makes it questionable whether a pooled prevalence estimate offers a meaningful statistic. The extreme heterogeneity is further demonstrated by the authors' forest plot. Confidence intervals on prevalence estimates above the summary estimate are extremely wide compared with those below the summary estimate. In addition, 2 studies included in the meta-analysis report zero prevalence; 1 study reports 85% prevalence, a considerable disparity. Some results require further explanation. For example, the odds ratio for smoking was significantly <1, suggesting that smoking is protective against MRSA carriage. Based on their

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