

Naval COVID Rapid Response Team (NCR2T) Leadership Synch

Naval Rapid Response Team Minutes

April 11, 2020, 1330 EST

RADM Selby: Work by the Rapid Response Team has been impressive. Fleet advisory have been released with guidance for wide area application. The next steps will be to get feedback from the Fleet on decontamination advisories to ensure appropriate adjustments as required.

Additionally, SEA 05 authorized the purchase of 1,000 hand-held wands for UVC. We are looking into purchasing conveyor belts to try out as another solution. The other focus is to work with NAVFAC and USMC on how to clean buildings and barracks

Doug Arnold: We are working on developing other methods, including UV light, to combat COVID 19 because when used in concert with other methods, UV lights can potentially be effective for routine cleaning.

Working in interagency capacity, and have been sharing with other partner nations who are facing the same challenges. We've also shared it with MSC, USCG, ABS and Waterfront CHENGs.

Overview on advisory: We recommended disinfection agent and sprayers and reviewed them for adverse effect to materials. We also inquired Fleet about what agent they already have on board. Our biggest concern is getting the correct and optimal mix of concentration. Too much or too little chemical will both have adverse effects on killing COVID virus.

There have been a lot of ideas brought up as solutions to COVID decontamination. Some involve chemicals. We have singled up on a single family of chemicals to use.

Remember that over-wrap is for bulk material. Protocol on whether overwrap should be used in concert with PPE and sprays depends on situation and location where the cargo was located and where it is going to, and if the areas mentioned – especially the port of debarkation is in an area with high COVID cases.

In the interest of sharing knowledge, please send in videos of how you are conducting decontamination cleaning in your area.

We need feedback on fleet advisory. Please note that our advisory leaned on the more conservative approach. Once we get feedback, we will make adjustments to advisory as necessary. An example of this is when we decided to use CDC's 7-day guidance on closing controlled space instead of the five days. The bottom line is that we want to arm commanders with information, but due to wide variance in each individual situation, we also want commanders to command as they see fit.

Questions RDML Brown: There are concerns that Tyvek suits might lead to heat exhaustion. What is the solution? Answer: the recommendations of PPE, including Tyvek suits, are conservative because we anticipate cleaners will be soaked with spray material. As we get more information on how the operations turn out, commanders can adjust PPE requirements as need be. Note: TR indicated it will go with the highest level of PPE and precautions because of its current situation.

Question: If the crew has already cleaned an area based on previous advisory, do they need to clean again? Answer: no.

Question: What are the solutions to ensuring cleaning gets accomplished? Answer: NAVSEA and NAVFAC are looking at need and options for commercial cleaners.

Question: Regarding environmental concerns, how can the Navy safely and legally disposed of cleaning materials? Answer: An exception to policy regarding standards is possible.

* ACTION NAVFAC PAC: INVESTIGATE EXCEPTION

On decontaminating cleaning equipment between spaces: BUMED advised to use procedures in original advisory.

Question: Decontaminating hospital ship spaces if location change needed.

*ACTION BUMED TO INVESTIGATE AND WORK WITH MSC

Clarified use of de-smoking procedures for a space. If you find fumes from cleaners are getting bad, use de-smoking.

Final note: the next TELCON will be on Tuesday, and we will get back to the normal Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday drumbeat.