

## News Releases from Headquarters› Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)

# EPA Releases List of Disinfectants to Use Against COVID-19

03/05/2020

Contact Information:

([press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov))

**WASHINGTON (March 5, 2020)** — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a list of EPA-registered disinfectant products that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

“Using the correct disinfectant is an important part of preventing and reducing the spread of illnesses along with other critical aspects such as hand washing,” **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler**. “There is no higher priority for the Trump Administration than protecting the health and safety of Americans. EPA is providing this important information in a public and transparent manner on disinfectant products to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

Products appearing on EPA’s list registered disinfectant products have qualified for use against COVID-19 through the agency’s Emerging Viral Pathogen program. This program allows product manufacturers to provide EPA with data, even in advance of an outbreak, that shows their products are effective against harder-to-kill viruses than SARS-CoV-2. It also allows additional communications intended to inform the public about the utility of these products against the emerging pathogen in the most expeditious manner.

Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product. Consumers using these disinfectants on an enveloped emerging virus should follow the directions for use on the product’s master label, paying close attention to the contact time for the product on the treated surface (i.e., how long the disinfectant should remain on the surface).

To view the list of EPA-registered disinfectant products, visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

### Background:

EPA’s [Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance](#) was developed and finalized in 2016 to allow for a rapid response in the event of an emerging viral pathogen outbreak. It was [triggered for the first time ever for SARS-CoV-2](#) on January 29, 2020. The guidance outlines a voluntary, pre-approval process for making emerging viral pathogens claims. In the event of an outbreak, companies with pre-approved products can make off-label claims (for example in technical literature, non-label-related websites, and social media) for use against the outbreak virus.

## List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2

The EPA-registered disinfectant products on [our Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 list](#) have qualified under EPA’s [emerging viral pathogen program](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2, a coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill

with the appropriate disinfectant product. The emerging viral pathogen guidance was [triggered for SARS-CoV-2](#) on January 29, 2020.

EPA strongly recommends following the product label use directions for enveloped viruses, as indicated by the approved emerging viral pathogen claim on the master label. If the directions for use for viruses/virucidal activity list different contact times or dilutions, use the longest contact time or most concentrated solution.

### **Application Information for Registrants Wanting an Emerging Viral Pathogen Claim**

A company can apply for an emerging viral pathogens claim, even before an outbreak occurs, based on previously EPA-approved claims for harder-to-kill viruses. EPA reviews the supporting information and determines if the claim is acceptable. Once approved, a company can make certain off-label claims as specified in the policy in the event of an outbreak such as the SARS-CoV-2. For instance, the company can include an efficacy statement on:

- technical literature distributed to health care facilities, physicians, nurses, public health officials;
- non-label-related websites;
- consumer information services; and
- social media sites.

Companies with EPA-registered disinfectants that want their products added to List N, should provide the information as outlined below to [disinfectantslist](mailto:disinfectantslist@epa.gov) (disinfectantslist@epa.gov).

1. Ensure that the product has a previously approved emerging viral pathogen claim.
2. Provide the product name and EPA Registration number.

**Note: There may be additional disinfectants that meet the criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. EPA will update this list with additional products as needed.**

You may need a PDF reader to view some of the files on this page. See EPA's [About PDF page](#) to learn more.

- [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(PDF\)](#)(7 pp, 210 K, March 3, 2020)

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>