Laboratory Diagnostics

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Inc.

Customer Bulletin

April 2020

COVID-19 Protective Measures Update

Decontamination Guidance for Instruments after Aspirating Samples that Contain Viruses

11536522, Rev. B

Important Information

Siemens Healthineers Laboratory Diagnostics is providing the following information to address customer questions about risk of exposure to viruses like SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when using Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics instruments.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (www.cdc.gov) provides a procedure for appropriate specimen acquisition, precautions, and handling of virus material, and has updated their biosafety guidance with regards to COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/lab-biosafety-guidelines.html).

While our diagnostic instruments are intended to operate safely for specimens containing infectious disease agents, they are not specifically designed to eliminate any potential contact with virus-containing specimens. In accordance with decontamination guidance from the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO, www.who.int), materials potentially containing certain blood-borne pathogens should be treated with defined universal precautions. In such instances, laboratory professionals working with diagnostic instruments should follow those decontamination procedures. In addition, specific health guidelines should be consulted and followed in each relevant country.

Based on guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) documented in *Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected, Interim guidance (WHO/2019-nCoV/IPC/v2020.2),* standard cleaning procedures for our diagnostic instruments, such as those documented in our Operator's Guides and Online Help and/or used by our service engineers, are considered effective and sufficient.

While Siemens Healthineers diagnostic instruments are generally designed to avoid sample aerosol formation in the course of testing in accordance with instructions for use, we can make no assurance that dispersal of chemical or biological material, including viruses, is completely prevented when a specimen is being analyzed or in the event that an instrument is misused, malfunctions, has been improperly or inadequately maintained, or experiences mechanical failure.

Also note, with regard to materials potentially containing certain blood-borne pathogens, the CDC recommends that appropriate hospital disinfectants be used and that all waste be disposed of in

accordance with facility-specific procedures and country, federal, and/or local regulations for biological waste. For COVID-19, the CDC recommends use of EPA-registered hospital disinfectants with label claims to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 (https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2). Follow the disinfectant manufacturer's recommendations for use, such as dilution, contact time, and safe handling.

If questions arise regarding specific instruments, please direct them to your Siemens Healthineers Laboratory Diagnostics service representative, so that they may be routed and answered appropriately.

Regulatory Information

Product and system availability are subject to local regulatory requirements and, therefore, vary by country. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your local technical support provider or distributor.

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Additional Assistance

Technical information is available at https://www.healthcare.siemens.com/doclib/. If you need additional assistance, please contact your Siemens Healthineers Remote Services Center.

Please retain this bulletin with your records for future reference.

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