



Coastal Health USA's SurfaceHealth™ ATP Monitoring System powered by 3M™ Clean-Trace™

High-Touch Surfaces Implementation Guide for Routine Cleaning Monitoring

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has encouraged commercial environments to develop an environmental cleaning and monitoring program to optimize the cleaning of high touch surfaces, as well as ensure quality control and improvement.

How to go from standards and guidelines to implementation of a routine quality control program:

There are five key components that go into the successful design and implementation of a routine cleaning monitoring program for high-touch surfaces using the SurfaceHealth™ ATP Monitoring System:

1. Design a test plan and determine test points.
2. Identify Pass/Fail thresholds.
3. Determine frequency of testing.
4. Establish meaningful metrics.
5. Track, trend and regularly review test result data.

1) Design a Test Plan and Determine Test Points

Coastal Health USA will do an onsite assessment of your facilities high-touch surfaces and workflow. Test points will be identified as the specific item(s) to be tested. The list of test points makes up the recommended test plan.

Environmental monitoring test plans fall into three general categories:

- Routine audit of meeting rooms in the facility
- High-touch and high-risk areas of your facility
- Shared equipment, shared technology, or general devices

Coastal Health USA Test Plan Recommendations:

- Focus on those surfaces and equipment most at risk for cross-contamination.
- Take into consideration high-risk staff members who are more susceptible to risk of infection. Ensure high-traffic areas are monitored frequently.

Routine Audit of Janitorial / Custodial Services

A minimum of ten (10) test points should be audited. Additional test points may be added based on facility considerations.

- Communal furniture
- Restroom sinks and counters
- Countertops
- Flush handles
- Tabletops
- Entry and exit doors
- Doorknobs
- Check-in areas
- Stairway rails
- Light Switches

It is the responsibility of the facility to develop and implement policies and procedures that support its unique needs and comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, standards and industry recommended practices.

Coastal Health USA is providing this sampling guide as a resource. You are responsible for determining whether the recommendations contained herein are appropriate for your setting and whether they will enable you to comply with any governmental or facility requirements, and your facility's policies and protocols.

High Risk Areas and Shared Equipment, Technology, and General Devices

A minimum of ten (10) test points should be audited. Additional test points may be added based on facility considerations.

- Shared workstations - keyboard and mice
- Telephones/headsets/radios
- Bathroom handrails by toilet and toilet seat
- Kitchen equipment, appliances and vending machines
- Touchscreens and time clocks
- Credit card machines, POS touchscreens
- Shared equipment/machinery
- Printers, scanners, shared phones
- Locker rooms/shower rooms

2) Identify Pass/Fail Threshold

Coastal Health USA recommends the following pass/fail thresholds for all test points. Threshold levels are supported in peer-reviewed clinical literature.^{4,5} These thresholds have been shown to be effective in reducing the risk associated with the transmission of environmental pathogens (e.g. Staph, Clostridium difficile, Influenza).⁶

Pass \leq 250 RLU

Fail \geq 251 RLU

3) Determine Frequency of Testing

In order to obtain statistically valid feedback, sufficient data must be collected on a routine basis. (weekly/monthly/quarterly facility workflow should be identified) Areas chosen for audit should represent a variation in cleaning procedures as well as include the cleaning efforts of all Environmental Services (EVS) staff members.

Routine Audit of High-Risk Areas, Shared Equipment, Technology, and General Devices

Because of the high-risk of pathogen transmission, every high-risk area, room, and designated shared device should be monitored routinely to ensure the facility is meeting its cleaning and disinfecting expectations for its employees, customers, and or patients.

4) Establish Meaningful Metrics

The target metrics for the facility should reflect the cleaning monitoring program objectives and may evolve and change over time.

- % pass/fail of combined data for an overall view of cleaning effectiveness.
- % pass/fail by room number provides a means to target problem areas and surfaces.
- % pass/fail of high-risk areas, rooms and mobile equipment allows early identification of developing problems.
- % pass/fail by staff highlights training successes as well as identifies those needing to increase competency levels.

5) Track and Trend Test Result Data

To obtain actionable feedback, sufficient data sets must be collected if a true understanding of cleaning efficacy is to be achieved. Coastal Health USA's SurfaceHealth™ Quality Control Data Manager powered by 3M™, provides an intuitive dashboard for quick, visual snapshots of cleaning performance and powerful reporting options to manage and communicate results.

High-touch surfaces should be monitored at the recommended frequency of testing so that any adverse trends can be detected in a timely manner. Coastal Health USA recommends that data be reviewed, at a minimum, once per month and preferably each time the system is used.

Using Monitoring Data to Improve Routine Cleaning of High-Touch Surfaces

Monitoring data is typically used in two ways:

Quality Control: Monitoring results provide real-time feedback on cleaning efficacy. For areas undergoing routine audits, Coastal Health USA recommends 80% of the test points should show passing results. If greater than 20% of the test points fail, then the entire room should be re-cleaned, and re-tested. For those high-risk areas, rooms and mobile equipment, all failing test points should be re-cleaned and re-tested until passing values are achieved.

Process Improvement: The collection of monitoring results over time offers the opportunity to gather statistically-valid data sets that can be used to improve environmental cleaning practices.

- Identify aging, damaged surfaces or equipment that are difficult to clean.
- Identify when cleaning processes are not being performed according to established procedures.
- Assess the effectiveness of training and competency protocols by highlighting both successes and improvement opportunities.

References

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