

Are Street and Passage Disinfections Useful in Preventing COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a contagious human threat that has swept the world's population.^[1] The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020.^[2] Prevention strategies, including personal protective measures, social distancing, and environmental surface cleaning, have been implemented to control disease transmission.^[3]

One way to fight the virus is disinfecting surfaces. During the COVID-19 epidemic, disinfection of all city streets and alleys was carried out by district municipalities.^[4] However, serious questions were raised about this method, and in practice, some experts not only did not approve this method as effective, but also stated that in addition to wasting resources and energy, it causes destruction.

These experts believe that the purpose of disinfection in the control of COVID-19 is to remove the pathogen from the surfaces that people come in contact with, while in general, in disinfecting urban and rural streets and passages, most of the disinfectants are used on surfaces that people do^[4] not have much contact with, and therefore this type of disinfection has little effect on reducing disease transmission. Furthermore, disinfection should be done intermittently, otherwise the surfaces will get contaminated again and again, and are likely to infect other people. On the other hand, conventional disinfectants have a limited operating time and are usually effective between a few minutes to a few hours.^[5]

Health-care providers have an important role in addressing emotional outcomes (e.g., insecurity, confusion, and fear), as part of the global health emergency and widespread public pandemic response.^[6] Meanwhile, disinfecting streets helped to calm people psychologically and this was a positive point in this action.

In fact, it can be concluded that disinfection of places and devices that people come into contact with, such as trading centers, elevators, ATMs, subway lines, bus stations, buses, taxis, gas stations, handrails, and seats in public places is necessary.^[7] However, improper use of these disinfectants in places that do not require disinfection, such as streets and passages, is not useful, but may be harmful to human health and have toxic and dangerous effects on the environment. In the current situation, the most important issue to deal with in the corona virus pandemic is to inform the public how to deal with and protect themselves against COVID-19 without stress and fear.^[8]

Financial support and sponsorship
Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Reza Sadeghi¹, Mahmood Reza Masoudi², Narges Khanjani³, Mousa Bamir⁴

¹Department of Public Health, Sirjan School of Medical Sciences, Sirjan, Iran,

²Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Sirjan School of Medical Sciences, Sirjan, Iran, ³Department of Neurology, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran, ⁴Department of Medical library and Information Science, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran

Address for correspondence: Dr. Reza Sadeghi,
Department of Public Health, Sirjan School of Medical Sciences, Sirjan, Iran.
E-mail: bamir@ut.ac.ir

REFERENCES

1. Ienca M, Vayena E. On the responsible use of digital data to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. *Nat Med* 2020;26:463-4.
2. CDC COVID-19 Response Team. Severe outcomes among patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) – United States, February 12-March 16, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:343-6.
3. Lim MA, Pranata R. The importance of COVID-19 prevention and containment in hemodialysis unit. *Clin Med Insights Circ Respir Pulm Med* 2020;14. doi:10.1177/1179548420939256.
4. Nabi G, Wang Y, Hao Y, Khan S, Wu Y, Li D. Massive use of disinfectants against COVID-19 poses potential risks to urban wildlife. *Environ Res* 2020;188:109916.
5. Mehta Y, Gupta A, Todi S, Myatra S, Samaddar DP, Patil V, *et al.* Guidelines for prevention of hospital acquired infections. *Indian J Crit Care Med* 2014;18:149-63.
6. Pfefferbaum B, North CS. Mental health and the covid-19 pandemic. *N Engl J Med* 2020;383:510-2.
7. Pourghaznein T, Salati S. National approach in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran. *Int J Community Based Nurs Midwifery* 2020;8:275-6.
8. Sadeghi R, Masoudi MR, Khanjani N. The commitment for fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccine among all countries of the world. *Res Nurs Health* 2021;44:266-7.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:
www.ijehe.org

DOI:
10.4103/ijehe.ijehe_24_21

How to cite this article: Sadeghi R, Masoudi MR, Khanjani N, Bamir M. Are street and passage disinfections useful in preventing COVID-19? *Int J Env Health Eng* 2022;11:16.

Received: 14-08-2021, **Accepted:** 18-11-2021, **Published:** 13-12-2022

© 2022 International Journal of Environmental Health Engineering | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow