



March 13, 2020

Dear Valued Customer,

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Current symptoms reported for patients have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

According to the World Health Organization, it is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment). If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others.

When treating patients in environments with infection risk, medical device components can become contaminated by bodily fluids, exhaled gases or environmental contaminants so it is important that GE Healthcare's validated cleaning and usage instructions from the User's Reference Manuals (URMs) are followed. Below is a reminder of those instructions for your reference.

Anesthesia Devices

For GE Healthcare anesthesia delivery devices, we recommend the use of breathing system filters ("Filters") that protect both the inspiratory and expiratory ports to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Failure to properly install and use Filters in a way that protects the inspiratory and expiratory ports will result in additional required cleaning and sterilization procedures.

For reliable operation of the breathing system, clean and sterilize the system according to the information in your GE Healthcare anesthesia delivery device URM.

For gas sampling for measurement, returning sampled gas to the patient circuit causes a risk of patient cross-infection. An internal Filter is in between the airway module and the breathing circuit when the gas module sample flow is configured to return to the breathing circuit. This Filter is present to mitigate the risk of patient cross contamination if the sampled gas is returned to the breathing system. Always use a breathing system Filter near the patient.

Ventilators

An inspiratory guard is required for the Carescope R860 ventilator and an inspiratory Filter can be used for other ventilators (such as the Engstrom Carestation) to prevent patient gas from contaminating the inspiratory gas path of the ventilator. A Filter can also be used to protect the expiratory port. The re-usable exhalation valve for the Carescope R860 and Engstrom Carestation is autoclavable, and a disposable exhalation valve is also available.

Accessories

Single-use products are not designed or validated to be reused. Reuse may: cause a risk of cross-contamination, affect the measurement accuracy, negatively affect system performance, or cause a

malfunction as a result of the product being physically damaged due to cleaning, disinfection, resterilization, or reuse.

Please consider the following:

- Refer to facility guidelines for removal of debris and environmental contamination from external surfaces.
- Disposable components should be disposed of according to facility guidelines.
- Reprocessing should be performed in accordance with facility guidelines to assure the device is clean and disinfected per your facility's disinfection and risk management policies.
- Reprocess ventilators and anesthesia machines and their components as instructed using the methods and products provided in the devices URM. Use of non-validated methods or products may damage components.
- If Filters are not used, perform the cleaning and sterilization procedures specified in the URM between patients to avoid cross-contamination.

Refer to the Cleaning and Sterilization URM supplied with your device(s) for information and instructions for disassembly, manual cleaning, automated washing, and/or disinfection and sterilization, as appropriate.

For additional information, please consult:

World Health Organization:

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Fnovel-coronavirus-2019.html

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control:

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to your local GE Healthcare representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matti E. Lehtonen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matti E. Lehtonen
General Manager, Anesthesia and Respiratory Care
GE Healthcare