

Cleaning & disinfection of aircraft guidance for cleaning crews

Suspected, probable or confirmed cases of Ebola disease in airline travellers.

Cleaning and disinfection of aircraft should be performed as per the airline's policies and protocols. The [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) has published resources for managing public health events, including Ebola disease and other communicable diseases, during air transport. The following advice is based on the IATA guidance for [cleaning crews who clean an arriving aircraft following a suspected case of communicable disease](#), with specific infection prevention and control considerations for Ebola disease.

IATA guidance	Ebola disease guidance ¹
1. Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) recommended by your national public health authority. Note that PPE requires appropriate training before use.	• Face shield and/or protective eyewear • Respiratory protection (i.e., surgical mask) • Two pairs of gloves (disposable) • Fluid-resistant full-length long-sleeved gown that fastens at the back
2. Remove and discard gloves if they become soiled or damaged, and after cleaning.	Follow instructions for safe donning and removal of PPE.
3. *Use only cleaning agents and disinfectants that have been approved by aircraft manufacturers at recommended concentrations and contact times.	Priority should be given to products endorsed by aircraft manufacturers that have specific claims against Filoviruses (Ebola disease).
4. Begin the cleaning at the top (light and air controls) and progressively work from clean to dirty areas.	
5. Surfaces to be cleaned Affected seat, adjacent seats same row, back of the seats in the row in front: • Light and air controls • Adjacent walls and windows • Seatbacks (the plastic and/or metal part) • Individual video monitor • Tray tables and armrests • Remove seat pocket contents and replace. Safety Briefing Card can be cleaned with the approved Disinfectant.	• Visually inspect the area for signs of blood and body fluids (BBF) prior to cleaning. ○ Contain BBF using an absorption agent ○ Directly apply approved disinfectant solution* ○ Clean area with neutral detergent. ○ Reapply disinfectant and allow contact time. ○ Finish with a final clean using neutral detergent. • Loose items that can be cleaned with an approved product can be wiped over and reused. • Other consumable items that cannot be wiped over should be discarded into waste (i.e., magazines).
6. Lavatory(ies) used by the sick traveller(s): Door handle, locking device, faucet, wash basin, adjacent walls and counter and toilet seat. <i>In exceptional circumstances public health authorities may require additional cleaning.</i>	• Visually inspect the area for signs of blood and body substances prior to commencing cleaning. • Work progressively from clean to dirty areas. • Consumable items that cannot be wiped over should be discarded into waste (i.e. toilet paper, paper hand towel).
7. Hand Hygiene - Wash hands with soap and water immediately after PPE is removed. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used as an alternative if the hands are not visibly soiled.	Follow PPE doffing signage prescriptively, including all steps that include hand hygiene.
8. Dispose of soiled material and PPE in a biohazard bag if one is available. If not, place in an intact plastic bag, seal it, and label it as biohazard.	Double bag waste and seal with a zip tie (or similar bag securement device).
9. Disinfection of upholstery, carpets, or storage compartments is only indicated when they have been soiled by body fluids. In such cases, use absorption agent first if required, clean any visible soil and disinfect before vacuuming to eliminate the risk of re-aerosolization. Refer to health-guidelines-universal-precaution-kit.pdf	In the event of a suspected, probable or confirmed case of Ebola disease, items such as seatbelts, cushions, carpets, and fabric upholstery are not impervious to body fluids and may absorb contamination, making effective cleaning and disinfection difficult to achieve. Consider removal and replacement where contamination with body fluids has occurred and complete decontamination cannot be assured, particularly for porous materials.

NB: Use aircraft manufacturer endorsed cleaning and disinfection products, including those effective against Filoviruses (e.g. Ebola), unless jurisdictional requirements specify alternative measures for high-risk body fluid contamination.

¹ [Ebola disease – CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units | Australian Centre for Disease Control...](#)