Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus. Highly contagious, the Hepatitis A virus is usually transmitted by the fecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food or water. Contamination can occur when infected persons do not wash their hands properly after going to the bathroom and then touch other objects or food items. Surfaces that are frequently touched should be cleaned and sanitized often.

**EFFECTIVE DISINFECTANTS:**

**Chlorine Bleach:**
Mix and use the chlorine solution promptly. Allow 1 minute of contact time and then rinse with water.
- 3/4 cups bleach in 1 gallon water. Use for stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous counters, sinks and toilets.

Other Disinfectants:
To determine if a product is effective against Hepatitis A, review the product label or product specification sheet and ensure it states “effective against Hepatitis A” or “effective against Feline Calicivirus”. You may also search the product name in the Environmental Protection Agency’s registered product database at: [https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1](https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1)

**SPECIFIC CLEANING METHODS**

Hard surfaces:
Disinfect surface with bleach, or other approved disinfectant, ensuring the correct contact time is being met. If the surface is in a food preparation area, make sure to rinse with water after. For surfaces that are corroded or damaged by bleach, use another product that is effective against Hepatitis A.

Proper handling:
- Use chemicals in well ventilated areas.
- Avoid contact between incompatible chemicals.
- Prevent chemical contact with food during cleaning.
- Handle contaminated material as little as possible with minimal agitation to reduce aerosols
- Manage waste safely and dispose in secure trash container.

**STEPS TO CLEAN VOMIT OR FECES:**

- Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks and gowns.
- Block-off area immediately.
- Clean up visible debris using disposable absorbent material (paper towels or other type of disposable cloths) and minimize aerosols.
- Discard soiled items carefully in an impervious plastic bag.
- Thoroughly clean affected area
- Disinfect area and objects surrounding the contamination with an appropriate disinfectant effective against Hepatitis A.
- Take off gloves, gown and mask, in that order, and discard before exiting contaminated clean-up area.
- Place discarded PPE in an impervious plastic bag.
- Re-glove and transport bag to a secure trash container; do not allow the bag to come into contact with clothing.
- Always wash your hands after handling any contaminated material, trash or waste.

**PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**

- All food employees must practice diligent handwashing and good personal hygiene
- Use utensils or gloves to eliminate barehand contact with ready-to-eat food.
- Thoroughly and continuously disinfect the facility and food areas.
- Food employees shall thoroughly wash their hands and arms with soap and warm water for at least 10 to 15 seconds; thoroughly rinse with clean running water and properly dry their hands and arms.
- Ensure handwashing signs are posted at the appropriate locations.

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