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Cleaning and Disinfecting COVID-19 Considerations for Eye Charts and Near Vision Cards

The following information is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – July 20, 2020 - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – August 20, 2020.

Cleaning:

Cleaning refers to removing germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs; cleaning will lower the numbers of germs and the risk of spreading infection.

Clean eye charts before disinfecting eye charts in a well-ventilated room away from other individuals.

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning eye charts.
- Dampen a lint-free cloth (microfiber or soft paper towel) using water with mild antibacterial detergent.
 - Do not immerse the chart in water.
 - To avoid damaging the sensitive surface of eye charts, do not use aggressive chemical or corrosive cleaning agents, such as acids or solvents.
- Gently wipe both sides and edges of charts.
- Dry charts with soft, lint-free cloth or soft paper towel.

Disinfecting:

Disinfecting refers to using chemicals, such as EPA -registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces and further lower the risk of spreading infection. For a list of the EPA's approved disinfectants – List N – updated August 20, 2020, visit: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19

- Clean eye charts before disinfecting.
- Wear disposable gloves when disinfecting eye charts.
- Disinfect eye charts in a well-ventilated room away from other individuals.



- Use diluted household bleach solutions containing 5.25% to 8.25% sodium hypochlorite or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol.
 - Prepare diluted household bleach solution by adding 1/3 cup of 5.25% 8.25% bleach per gallon of room temperature water or 4 teaspoons of
 5.25%-8.25% bleach per quart of room temperature water.
 - Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.
 - If using other disinfectants, refer to the EPA' "List N" of disinfectants updated August 20, 2020: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19
 - Follow the manufacturer's label instructions for use, application method, and contact time.
 - Test a small area of the chart first to avoid any damage to the full chart.
 - If disinfectant appears safe on the eye chart, wipe both sides and edges of
 eye charts with disinfecting solution on a soft, lint-free cloth (unless directed
 to use a different type of cloth according to manufacturer's label
 instructions).
- Remove and discard disposable gloves.
 - If reusable gloves are used, dedicate those gloves only for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after removing and discarding disposable gloves or removing and storing reusable gloves.
 - If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
 - Refer to the CDC's recommendations for hand sanitizer use August 10, 2020: https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/hand-sanitizer-use.html
 - Refer to the FDA's guidelines for hand sanitizer use (including FDA-tested and recalled hand sanitizers) – July 8, 2020: https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/safely-using-hand-sanitizer

Store cleaning and disinfecting supplies away from children.

Refer to the Environmental Protection Agency's infographic on additional information for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf

Please contact us if you have any questions.