



The use of Griffiths III equipment during the current pandemic

Further to our initial ARICD Statement issued on 21/05/20 (see below), we are now aiming to provide some extra information to enable practitioners to use Griffiths III equipment as safely as possible in the current situation.

ARICD initial information:

“Infection Control

Where a face-to-face Griffiths assessment is carried out, standard Care of Equipment must be carried out in accordance with the guidelines in the Griffiths Manual Part II (page 2, second paragraph). In addition, equipment could be rinsed in clean water after cleaning in hot soapy water.

Covid-19 specific local health and safety guidelines must also be followed. This could include provision of hand washing facilities (with hot water and soap) and use of hand sanitiser for carers and children as well as practitioners, cleaning of surfaces and the use of gloves and masks. Practitioners must follow the infection control advice specific to the countries and location where they work.”

Further information:

As before, specific local guidelines for infection control must be followed. This can include social distancing rules, use of gloves, face masks, plastic aprons and provision of hand washing facilities/sanitiser for carers and children as well as practitioners.

For equipment which can be washed (such as Brick Boxes and bricks), hot soapy water should be used, with, if possible, a further rinsing in clean water.

It is useful to have a receptacle available during an assessment for equipment which needs cleaning, particularly objects which have been mouthed.

For paper equipment, this is wipeable but if use is frequent, and it is thought necessary, these pieces of equipment (such as Spot the Difference Cards) can be laminated to allow them to be wiped more frequently. This can be with hot soapy water or sanitiser.

For equipment where neither of the above are feasible, such as the Quiet Book and Griff the Bear, an alternative is needed.

A number of fabric disinfectant sprays have anti-viral properties but none so far easily available have been specifically tested on Covid-19. Your local health facilities should have such sprays available and can give recommendations for their use.

One particular spray – Dettol All-in-One Disinfectant Spray – is safe for use on fabrics and is family-friendly.

We have tested this spray on the Quiet Book and its components as well as Griff the Bear with no detrimental effects to the fabric. The spray needs to be sprayed on liberally and allowed to dry.

“The product specification states:

Specific Dettol products have demonstrated effectiveness (>99.9% inactivation) against coronavirus strains from the same family as the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in third party laboratory testing, when used in accordance with the directions for use. These products are: Dettol Antibacterial Surface Cleanser Spray, Dettol Antibacterial Surface Cleanser Wipes, Dettol All-In-One Disinfectant Spray, and Dettol Disinfectant Liquid.

Given the structural similarities of the COVID-19 virus to the coronavirus strains tested previously (SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, Human Coronavirus), and based on the evidence available to us, we would expect our Dettol products (listed above) to be effective against the new strain. Definitive scientific confirmation of this, as with all other commercially available virucides, can only be provided once testing against COVID-19 Coronavirus has been conducted, following release of the strain by relevant health authorities.”

This is one of the sprays easily available.

Another spray widely used in the Health Service in the UK, for items such as blood pressure cuffs, is Clinell. There are also other similar suitable sprays available.

It is also advisable to allow as long as possible between episodes when equipment is used as this also reduces the risk of cross infection.

If you have any further questions concerning equipment please contact: info@aricd.ac.uk