

# ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## Effective Disinfectants Against “Influenza A Viruses”

The public has been requesting information regarding how to locate effective disinfectants against “Influenza A Viruses”. The United States’ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registers pesticide products, such as, disinfectants for use against infectious agents. As part of the registration process, EPA evaluates the product efficacy to make sure the public health label claims are accurate. Currently, over 500 disinfectant products are registered for use on non-porous hard surfaces against influenza A viruses. EPA considers, based on available scientific information, that the currently registered influenza A virus products will be effective against the 2009-novel H1N1 influenza strain and other influenza A virus strains on non-porous hard surfaces. For safe and effective use of these products, always follow label instructions for these products, paying special attention to the product’s dilution rate (if applicable) and contact time.

Choose a product whose label states that it is effective against “*Influenza A virus*” and lists your specific site of concern, such as farm premises, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, schools, offices or homes. These products are widely available at drugstores, supermarkets, and home maintenance/repair stores, among others. These registered disinfectant products are for use on non-porous hard surfaces, such as doorknobs, handles, tables, and floors. EPA emphasizes that these products are not to be used on the skin or to be taken orally. As the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) stresses, your first line of defense is to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based cleaner. They go on to recommend refraining from touching eyes, noses and mouths since the virus can be transmitted through that route. EPA registers more than [500 antimicrobial products](#) specifically for use against influenza A virus. This is not a complete list since some products may have different distributor or product names thus are not referenced in this document. Approved products specifically have label information, which states they provide effectiveness against “*Influenza A viruses*”

Sincerely,

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