

CEILING TILE BLEACH PROTOCOL

PURPOSE: Movement of ceiling tiles can cause “showers” of dust particles. These dust particles carry airborne Aspergillus spores, which can cause a life-threatening infection in high-risk patients or visitors whose immune status is compromised. In order to reduce the disruption of dust particles, the air above the ceiling tile should be sprayed with bleach solution before displacing ceiling tiles.

APPROPRIATE BARRIERS SHOULD BE IN PLACE BEFORE CEILING WORK IS STARTED. INFECTION CONTROL SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR ALL CEILING WORK DONE IN PATIENT CARE AREAS.

1. Remove only those tiles that are necessary to accomplish the job. Replace ceiling tiles as soon as work in that area is completed. Do **NOT** leave ceiling exposed for more than **4 hours**, unless you are actively working in that area.
2. Make up the appropriate amount of bleach solution for the job at hand (mix only enough for one day’s work) and transfer the solution to a spray bottle **OR** if using an automatic mixing sprayer, empty and rinse the water bottle daily before filling.
3. Fresh bleach solution should be made up daily.

BLEACH SOLUTION: one part bleach to nine parts water.

Examples: 1 gallon of bleach to 9 gallons of water
½ gallon of bleach to 4 ½ gallons of water
1 qt. of bleach to 9 qt. water

4. Slowly lift one corner of ceiling tile to allow your other hand with the spray bottle to gain access to the space above the tile.
5. Thoroughly mist the air above the ceiling tile in a **360-degree** fashion.
6. Replace the ceiling tile and allow the mist to settle for **at least 5-10 seconds** before removing tile.

If you have questions, please contact Infection Control 454-7560.

