

**To whom it may concern**

Schwerin, 2020-01-30

## Expert Opinion

### 2019-nCoV, Wuhan coronavirus

In December 2019, the so-called novel Wuhan virus, which was first noticed in the province of Wuhan in China (2019-nCoV), was described. Like SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV viruses, it causes a serious respiratory infection in humans, which according to current knowledge can be associated with a mortality in the lower single-digit percentage range for predisposed patients.

Wuhan virus seems to be transmitted from person to person through respiratory secretions and their aerosols when coughing (droplet infection).

Nothing is known about the tolerance of the new Wuhan coronavirus to disinfectants. However, the stability towards disinfectants can be estimated from tests with other corona viruses:

Corona viruses belong to the group of enveloped viruses, which are generally easy to inactivate. In Europe, vaccinia virus is commonly used as a surrogate for enveloped viruses. If you compare coronaviruses with the test viruses of the European virucidal standards (e.g. according to EN 14476, EN 16777 and EN 17111 for the medical field), you can assume that coronaviruses are much more unstable than the uncovered adeno- and noroviruses.

To disinfect 2019-nCoV, you can use any disinfectant that has been tested correctly (i.e. in accordance with phase 2, level 1 and level 2) and has demonstrated virucidal activity against enveloped viruses.

For the **disinfection** of surfaces and instruments, means and methods are already suitable which have proven not only their bactericidal and levurocidal activity but also a **limited virucidal claim**:

- **A surface disinfectant should therefore be used in accordance with the application conditions according to EN 14476 and EN 16777**
- **For an instrument disinfectant, the application conditions apply, which were determined according to EN 14476 and EN 17111**
- **For hand disinfection, alcoholic hand disinfectants should be used in accordance with the application conditions in accordance with EN 14476**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Werner', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dr. med. univ. S. Werner