IUVA publishes factsheet on UV disinfection for COVID-19

UV Smart is a member of IUVA (The International Ultraviolet Association). IUVA recently published an factsheet about disinfection of micro-organisms using UV light.

IUVA believes that UV disinfection technologies may play a role in a multiple barrier approach to reduce transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, based on current disinfection data and empirical evidence.

Facts about UV and COVID-19

Can UVC help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 by reducing contamination? Based on existing evidence, IUVA thinks so. This is why:

Bacteria and viruses tested so far (many hundreds over the years, including other coronaviruses) are deactivated by UVC. Some organisms are more sensitive to UVC disinfection than others, but tested microorganisms have been proven to get inactivated by UVC lights.

• UVC can be installed in clinical or other environments to extend existing processes or support existing protocols when exhausted by excessive pandemic demands.

• UV light, especially between 200-280 nm (UVC or the germicidal range), inactivates (also known as 'kills') at least two other coronaviruses that are close relatives of the COVID-19 virus: 1) SARS-CoV - 1 and 2) MERS-CoV.

• COVID-19 infections can be caused by contact with contaminated surfaces and then touching facial areas. Normal cleaning and disinfection can leave some residual contamination that UVC can treat, suggesting that a multiple disinfectant approach is sensible. UVC has been shown to achieve a high level of inactivation of a related virus to the COVID-19 virus.

• Micro-organisms can be significantly reduced by applying UV to many surfaces, as a secondary barrier to cleaning. This would be a relatively simple matter of illuminating the relevant surfaces with UVC light, for example the air and surfaces in / around rooms and personal protective equipment.

Are UVC disinfection machines safe?

Like any disinfection system, UVC devices must be used appropriately to be safe. UVC light is much "stronger" than normal sunlight and can cause a severe sunburn-like reaction to your skin, and may also damage the retina of your eye when exposed. Therefore, all disinfection devices must take into account the general safety of the machine and people.

Are there performance standards and UVC validation protocols for UV disinfection devices?

For UVC devices designed to inactivate air and solid surfaces in healthcare, members of IUVA are working diligently with other national standardization bodies in the lighting and healthcare sector to develop standards for disinfection testing. The goal is to develop guidelines that will help healthcare providers worldwide choose the best possible technologies for their institutions to use in the fight against multi-drug resistant organisms and other pathogens, such as the COVID-19 virus.

Read the full article here: https://www.ledsmagazine.com/company-newsfeed/article/14172974/iuva-releases-a-fact-sheet-on-covid19-and-uvcband-disinfection