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ST★R Report

Are Electrostatic Sprayers Still Worth It?

Crunching the numbers says they're worth the investment

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Seven key points from Executive Director Patty Olinger about a layered strategy to beat COVID.



Photo courtesy of American Airlines

Are Electrostatic Sprayers Still Worth It?

For almost two years, the world has focused on preventing and treating COVID-19. Extraordinary measures like lockdowns, mask mandates, and accelerated timelines for vaccines and therapies have been adopted to slow the spread of this virus that has so far killed more than 4.3 million people worldwide. As we learn more about how the disease is spread, we have adjusted our mitigation efforts. No longer are we washing down our groceries after a shopping trip, and we have learned that a simple mask that covers a person's nose and mouth can be a powerful preventive measure.

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is considered a primarily droplet- and aerosol-transmitted pathogen, with fomite transmission much less likely. I presented this shift in scientific understanding to a group

of business owners recently and a participant commented, "So my investment in electrostatic sprayers was for nothing?" I was surprised by the question and even more taken aback when the course of the conversation became focused on shifting from surface disinfection to improving ventilation systems, as if it were an either/or proposition. Facilities should be engaged in ensuring that both surfaces and air quality are safe for employees and members of the public. For those that



Michael Diamond
Co-founder, Executive Director
TIPS: The Infection
Prevention Strategy

Electrostatic sprayers work by positively charging disinfectant droplets so that when they are sprayed, they seek out and cling to negatively or neutrally charged surfaces.

have invested in electrostatic sprayers, you have made a sound investment in an amazing technology that is both effective and efficient in disinfecting all the surfaces in a facility.

Surface Disinfection Still Matters

In the context COVID-19, preventing fomite infection through indirect contact was at first critical in the prevention of the disease because that is how other infectious diseases like MRSA and norovirus are spread. At the beginning of the pandemic, cruise ships, quarantine facilities and hospitals were swabbed for SARS-CoV-2 and the virus seemed to be everywhere, suggesting that it could survive on surfaces for weeks. However, the link between the virus surviving on a surface and that virus being transmissible has been less clear. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has since updated its guidance, stating that contact transmission is less likely than other modes. However, fomite transmission has not been ruled out; it has been given less significance than droplet and aerosol transmission. Furthermore, as more variants of COVID-19 emerge, their transmissibility may change. Just as the Delta variant has proven to be more transmissible, even to those who have built up immunity through vaccination, new variants could pose an increased risk for fomite transmission.

Other pathogens

Many infectious diseases are transmitted through direct and indirect contact with objects and surfaces. Although COVID-19 has taken hold of the spotlight, these other diseases have not gone away, nor should they be ignored. The pandemic may have

intensified the concern for some existing pathogens. For example, both the United Kingdom and the United States have reported an increase in the cases of children being admitted to hospital with Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), a common winter respiratory illness, this past spring and summer. RSV is a risk to young children and may lead to serious complications such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis. In England, RSV's positivity rate rose from 1.2% to 8.9% in the span of only five weeks this summer. Isolation and physical distancing measures during the pandemic mean fewer people have built up enough natural immunity to fight off the infection, which is especially concerning for infants and toddlers. We can also expect the cold and flu season to be worse this year as life returns to normal and isolation measures are lifted.

The CDC has also just reported evidence that a multi-drug-resistant fungus, *Candida auris*, is being transmitted from person to person, which is a phenomenon never before documented in the United States. Although this superbug is a more of a concern in health care settings, contracting the infection is very concerning for seriously ill patients. This reporting also highlights the fact that modes of transmission are not always fully understood and can change as the pathogen mutates.

Electrostatic Sprayers are a Sound Investment

Electrostatic sprayers work by positively charging disinfectant droplets so that when they are sprayed, they seek out and cling to negatively or neutrally charged surfaces. In doing so, every surface in a facility gets the

disinfectant, even those that are difficult to reach or have crevices that a spray-and-wipe method may miss. An electrostatic sprayer is a very efficient chemistry application method for surface disinfection because of its ability to provide uniform surface coverage. Unlike fogging sprayers, using an electrostatic sprayer requires minimal room preparation and room sealing. In this way, electrostatic sprayers are more practical and user-friendly, and much more suitable for both individual rooms and open spaces such as food courts and corridors.

As an investment, electrostatic sprayers are affordable for most facilities. Any costs associated with new equipment purchases will be recovered in saved labor costs. The *Official ISSA Cleaning Times* reports that the application of disinfectant to a 100-square-foot space with a cordless backpack electrostatic sprayer takes 12 seconds, whereas traditional cleaning methods take almost 2 minutes to disinfect the same space. Extract that improved efficiency to a large building and the labor savings become significant.

COVID-19 is still an active concern, especially now that we are anxious to go back to a normal life where we mingle with people and resume our activities. While mitigation efforts turn to vaccinations, masks and ventilation, we cannot neglect the disinfection of surfaces any more than we can abandon simple measures like hand-washing. Electrostatic sprayers are an excellent investment that will both improve the level of disinfection in a facility and save labor hours. ★

For more information, visit www.IC.tips.



The Virus Doesn't Care

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease, doesn't care. It doesn't care about politics, socio-economic status, race, gender, sexual preference, age and other demographics. It seeks to infect as many as it can. We are at war with an invisible opponent, and it will exploit our every weakness no matter who we are. The outcomes will be with us for some time, maybe forever. Looking at our war on SARS-CoV-2, we must recognize seven key points in our layered strategy to win. Others may surface as we continue to learn, but let's focus on these seven.



Patricia (Patty) Olinger
Executive Director, GBAC

- 1. Get vaccinated.** In the beginning of the pandemic, we did not have this weapon in our arsenal. It is the thing we can do to protect ourselves, our families and our communities. There is no doubt it protects us from serious illness and death from SARS-CoV-2.
- 2. Mask.** Masks work. Remember: LAYERED protection. We want to stop the spread. We are all tired of masks, but they provide a layer of protection from infection and they also protect others from becoming infected if you are COVID-positive. We are at a

pivotal point in this pandemic, and keeping this layer of protection in place from a biorisk management perspective is important, especially when we are talking about situations involving mass gatherings in enclosed spaces.

- 3. Keep your distance.** I want to hug my friends and colleagues again, but, for now, keep your distance, especially if you don't have a mask on. How many of us have chosen to wait for an elevator because there were several people already on it?
- 4. Assess and address your facility's ventilation.** One silver lining from this pandemic will be the innovations, strategies and solutions that assist in improving healthy indoor air.
- 5. Wash your hands** — often — and for 20 seconds at a time. When you don't have access to soap and water, use hand sanitizer. If you are a business owner or facility manager, make sure hand sanitizer is available and your restrooms are well-serviced.
- 6. Clean and disinfect surfaces.** High-touchpoint surfaces do matter. While there is no doubt that SARS-CoV-2 is an airborne pathogen primarily, from a biosafety/biorisk management standpoint we know you can become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then

touching your eyes, nose or mouth. What we don't know is the percentage of people infected this way. This could be a significant number and is something we can control at a local and personal level. Remember, LAYERED protection. This is a weapon in our arsenal that we as individuals and business owners can control — and must. Clean and healthy spaces are good for not only helping control the COVID-19 pandemic, but also other infectious disease outbreaks such as the flu, norovirus, salmonella, E. coli, MRSA, tuberculosis and others.

- 7. Get educated.** If you are a business owner or facility manager, make sure your staff or contractor that cleans and disinfects your facility is trained on how to protect themselves and your customers.

To win this war, it will take capacity, trust and leadership, with everyone working together as a community. While SARS-CoV-2 doesn't care, we do. ★

Where Do We Stand

GBAC STAR Facility Reaccreditation

GBAC STAR Facility Reaccreditation is an annual process building on the initial accreditation to ensure those facilities continue to evolve, improve and advance with the performance-based GBAC STAR program elements. More than 4,000 facilities make up the GBAC STAR Family, and many are in the process of reaccreditation, while others are initially becoming accredited.

GBAC Star Facilities Family

As of August 15, 2021

74% of facilities committed to reaccreditation

21 facilities reaccredited

To learn more about this process, contact GBAC Sales at <https://gbac.issa.com/contact>.



GBAC Educational Leadership Highlights ISSA Show North America

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a division of ISSA, will be spotlighted with an educational leadership role at the upcoming 2021 ISSA Show North America, set for November 15-18 at the Las Vegas Convention Center West Hall, a GBAC STAR accredited facility. The show offers an impressive conference program featuring over 100 education sessions, workshops, panels, training and certification courses over four days.

“At the ISSA Show North America, everyone comes together from the cleaning industry to share and connect. It’s the leading resource for information, education, innovation, networking and commercial opportunities for firms within the worldwide cleaning industry,” Melissa Wernersbach, GBAC Academy Education Manager, GBAC, said. “ISSA Show North America is a great place for leaders to come together and exchange knowledge about cutting-edge technology,



Melissa Wernersbach
GBAC Academy
Education Manager

solutions and what they’ve done to push forward, especially during the pandemic. It’s a wonderful opportunity to engage in webinars, education and exhibits, and network with other industry leaders. And it’s an excellent opportunity to shine as a GBAC accredited facility, service provider, or registered program or registered technology.”

According to Wernersbach, GBAC will supply an extensive roster of learning sessions led by some of the world’s foremost authorities and subject-matter experts on infectious disease prevention.

- Patricia Olinger, Executive Director, GBAC
- Dr. Gavin Macgregor-Skinner, Senior Director, GBAC
- Dr. John Lowe, Associate Professor of Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health
- Dr. Stefan Wagener, Executive Director and Founder, Biorisk International

- Dr. Paul Meechan, Senior Advisor for Laboratory Safety, Office of Laboratory Science and Safety, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Olinger will present a GBAC workshop on Audits and Inspections from 10 a.m.-noon, Sunday, November 14, according to Wernersbach. Olinger will review the fundamentals of developing an audit and inspection program to strengthen a company through a continuous improvement cycle.

Not only will attendees enjoy educational opportunities, but Wernersbach notes they will have the chance to talk face-to-face with GBAC leadership and other industry influencers from across the globe. Also, more than 160,000 net square feet of show floor space will be occupied with booths and exhibits from all industry segments to encourage attendees to do business, gather information and find solutions to better manage commercial and residential cleaning operations.

“Ultimately, ISSA Show North America increases the appreciation for cleaning and the investment in human health,” Wernersbach said. “It’s an opportunity to push education out to make sure people in the industry have access to many different resources from all segments of the globe at their fingertips.”

To learn more about the ISSA Show North America and to register your attendance, visit www.issashow.com. ★



Sharing GBAC Learnings through \$1 Million Program

These scholarships and grants help us empower our members and the cleaning industry at-large with advanced education and training that helps frontline workers and managers stay safe and operate as effectively as possible.

For the past 18 months, ISSA and GBAC have worked diligently to oversee the management and distribution of nearly \$1 million in grants and scholarships donated by ISSA-member companies. These funds will go toward furthering the skill sets of employees on the front lines of the cleaning industry and protecting the communities in which they work.

The effort underwrites costs for various learning opportunities such as GBAC Fundamentals Course



Jon Adkins
Vice President, Marketing,
IT and Divisions
ISSA

scholarships and GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation grants. Jon Adkins, Vice President, Marketing, IT and Divisions, ISSA, estimates around 7,000 individuals have received GBAC training thanks to the generosity of companies such as Kimberly-Clark Professional, GP PRO, CloroxPro, Byoplanet, GOJO, Essendant and Victory Innovations.

"These scholarship and grant programs have been really impactful and are only possible through the generosity of these cleaning industry manufacturers and suppliers that wanted to help," Adkins said. "It's been great to partner with these members to provide value to the industry via GBAC programs."

The application process for facilities and individuals interested in receiving

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting Company	Program Type	More Information
Kimberly-Clark Professional	GBAC Fundamentals Course Scholarships	Open at www.issa.com/kcp-scholarships
Clorox Pro	GBAC Fundamentals Course Scholarships + Clorox T360 Product Grants*	Open at www.issa.com/clorox-gbac
Georgia-Pacific Professional (GP PRO)	GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation Grants + GP PRO KOLO Product Trial	Program has ended
Byoplanet	GBAC Consulting + USA Triathlon GBAC STAR Event Grants	Program has ended
Essendant	GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation Grants	Program has ended
GOJO	GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation Grants	Program has ended
Victory Innovations	GBAC Fundamentals Course Scholarships	Program has ended

*This segment has ended.

a grant or scholarship is online and takes about three to five minutes to complete, Adkins added. The website landing pages (see graphic) describe the program and host the applications. ISSA and GBAC award the grant or scholarship based on the need of the applicant and how it fits specifics prioritized by the sponsoring company; how it ensures the safety of employees, guests and vendors; and how the pandemic has impacted the company.

"These scholarships and grants help us empower our members and the cleaning industry at-large with advanced education and training that helps frontline workers and managers stay safe and operate as effectively as possible," Adkins said. "It's been gratifying to provide that, but it goes back to the great support of our ISSA members and these companies that have stepped up and wanted to make a difference."

Clorox Scholarships

In just four weeks, more than 30 organizations have received scholarships to become GBAC Certified Technicians thanks to a generous offer made by CloroxPro®.

"With the GBAC Fundamentals course, this is what everyone is focused on — cleaning and disinfecting — and the need is not going away anytime soon. Clients, guests and employees are finding it very valuable to refresh their memory or learn more," Claire Lind, Sales Account Executive, GBAC, said. "Everyone entering a facility is looking at it with a different set of eyes to ensure that it's safe and clean and they feel confident."

Qualified applicants will receive complimentary access to the GBAC Fundamentals course — a \$300 value

— to become a GBAC-Trained Technician. Up to five employees at each facility can become GBAC-Trained Technicians through the Clorox program. Freshly updated with details on COVID-19, new equipment and more, this self-paced online training focuses on three learning objectives:

- Understand the key principles of cleaning and disinfection for infectious diseases in the workplace.
- Identify tools and processes for successful cleaning and disinfection.
- Apply the proper procedures for cleaning and disinfection. ★

GBAC[®] tv

Riding the COVID-19 Rollercoaster

The numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths are moving from valleys to frightening peaks. Some states are experiencing few issues while others are seeing their statistics skyrocket, in part because of people being unvaccinated and a relaxing of guidelines for masking and social distancing. The coronavirus should have been well contained by now, but hundreds of thousands of new cases are being tallied each day across the globe.

In the latest episode of BioTalk, a presentation of GBACtv, a webcast series produced by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a division of ISSA, Dr. Gavin Macgregor-Skinner, senior director of GBAC, with host Jeff Cross, ISSA Media Director, will



take on this subject and how the variants are impacting our efforts. Why is the Delta variant unique and different? What is going to happen next? And why are more kids getting sick now than before?

In another recently released episode of BioTalk, Macgregor-Skinner and Patty Olinger, Executive Director, GBAC, discuss the current status of cleaning, disinfecting and how we view the air we breathe.

All episodes of BioTalk are available at <https://gbac.issa.com/media/gbactv/>. ★

Shining Brightly with the GBAC STAR

Four cities have achieved the GBAC STAR Destination Diamond designation, a seal of safety and health for visitors and businesses coming to their areas, while more than 20 other locations have committed to begin the process. The newly crowned Diamond Destinations include Visit Baltimore, Visit Dallas, Discover the Palm Beaches and Explore Edmonton.

The GBAC STAR Destination program expands upon the highly successful GBAC STAR Facility and Service Accreditations by growing to a wider coverage area. Communities are banding together in marketing campaigns with mass gathering venues, restaurants, transportation hubs, shopping areas, hotels and many other facilities to encourage their participation in the GBAC STAR family or highlight the GBAC STAR accreditations already awarded to them.

According to Steve Arehart, Director of Technical Operations, GBAC, the GBAC STAR Destination objective is to showcase the commitment made by these destinations and their businesses to continually drive the message of cleaning for health that instills confidence and trust in employees, consumers, tourists and businesses.

"New DMOs or state/city tourism organizations, or even a local chamber of commerce, that are interested will start as GBAC STAR Destination, beginning with their commitment. With that, you are agreeing to form a committee of key industry partners in your city, such as an airport, transportation hub, convention center, stadiums, arenas or restaurant or hospitality associations. You also create a strategic marketing plan to encourage facilities or service providers in your city to pursue the GBAC STAR accreditation," Arehart said. "The GBAC STAR



Steve Arehart
Director of Technical
Operations, GBAC

Destination Program offers flexibility so that a smaller town and major metro areas can participate. Not every city fits into the same mold, so the criteria is fluid based on the opportunities of each individual location." Arehart adds that every committee member must complete the GBAC STAR Fundamentals course as a part of that commitment.

On September 7, the official website will go live and open the program to more locations. Also, facilities and service providers in these destinations can participate in GBAC STAR boot camps specific to their area to help expedite their accreditation process with help from a GBAC Account Manager and a GBAC Technical Analyst.

The mission remains to ensure people understand the role hygiene and cleaning play in the spread of infectious disease, and how compliance, continuous improvement, auditing and documentation management enhance their effectiveness.

"The GBAC STAR Destination designation helps bridge the gap between business and families that are eager to travel, host events or be entertained and the cities that can offer those things with the assurance that sustainable measures have been taken for the health and safety of the people and events it hosts," Arehart said. "This designation helps those businesses and travelers evaluate their experience through the lens of hygiene and health when looking at their transportation, lodging, events or attractions they attend and where they eat when deciding where to travel."

If a city manager, tourism bureau leader, chamber of commerce member or others are interested in achieving this certification, email GBACDestination@issa.com for more information or visit <https://gbac.issa.com/gbac-star-destination/> ★

Looking Ahead

Sign Up Now for GBAC STAR Bootcamp

The next session of the GBAC STAR Virtual Bootcamp is set to be held from 2-4 p.m. EDT on both September 27 and 28. Only 100 participants are allowed each month for the Virtual Bootcamp and signing up early is highly encouraged. This course is a two-day digital briefing that reviews the accreditation process and takes a deep dive into the 20 elements, with an extensive opportunity for questions and answers. The course readies clients for the task of gathering their documents for accreditation. To learn more about GBAC STAR Virtual Bootcamp and register, visit https://bit.ly/GBAC_STAR_Bootcamp.

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Air Quality Considerations

Air quality has become a focus of cleaning considerations since the SARS-CoV-2 virus pandemic started. Join GBAC Scientific Advisor Dr. Paul Meehan, GBAC Executive Director Patty Olinger and others for our next GBAC Webinar, Noon-1:00 p.m. CT, September 22. The panel will discuss considerations a facility and those involved in cleaning facilities should take into consideration to control the spread of infectious agents within their facilities, with a particular concern for those spread through airborne routes.

ISSA Members: FREE (please email gbacacademy@issa.com for a coupon code to use at checkout)

GBAC STAR Community: FREE (please email gbacacademy@issa.com for a coupon code to use at checkout)

Nonmembers: \$99

To register, visit https://bit.ly/GBAC_Academy_AirQuality



GBAC STAR

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