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JohnsonDiversey steps up to assist schools fighting MRSA

RACINE, Wis. – JohnsonDiversey today increased production of its most effective line of disinfectants for schools and advised school officials to fight infections in schools with the same strategies used in health care environments.

“We stand ready to partner with school administrators and staff to reduce the threat of deadly infections,” said President and Chief Executive Officer Ed Lonergan. “The right products applied in the right way can have a huge impact on the safety of schools.”

JohnsonDiversey has unique products that are deadly for microorganisms but safe for people and the environment, he added. The company also has a team of experts with knowledge and experience to advise school officials on the most effective methods for addressing the spread of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Lonergan said.

“When it comes to controlling MRSA, schools and universities should manage their athletic areas as if they were health care facilities,” said Dr. Jose Ramirez, a senior scientist at JohnsonDiversey who helped develop Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP) technology. “Locker rooms and gyms are warm, humid environments with high levels of human activity where infection spreads easily. Schools should adopt aggressive cleaning and disinfection programs of all hard surfaces in their athletic facilities.”

The company has increased production of its patented AHP-technology line of EPA-registered disinfectants, Oxivir Tb™ and Carpe Diem Tb™. These products are available under the brands Johnson Wax Professional and Butchers, respectively. Only Oxivir Tb and Carpe Diem Tb disinfectants offer a 60-second kill time, which is highly effective against pathogens such as MRSA, but with a health hazard rating of zero, which means it has a product-safety profile well-suited for use in schools.

“The extraordinary 60-second kill time and its excellent safety profile makes this product ideal for the school environment,” said Ramirez. “A short kill time assures the disinfectant works quickly and is easy to use.”

Disinfectants with AHP technology essentially break down into oxygen and water. “Oxivir Tb and Carpe Diem Tb disinfectants were developed to be highly effective, yet with health, safety and the environment in mind,” Ramirez added.

Until recently MRSA infected mainly patients in hospitals and nursing homes. But the pathogen is now showing up in the wider community, infecting students in schools across the United States.

In 2005, more than 90,000 people contracted MRSA and nearly 19,000 died, according to a study in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Researchers believe that MRSA infections may be twice as common as once thought.

JohnsonDiversey also provides the latest in cleaning and disinfecting procedures through print materials, training programs and customer technical service. Information about MRSA and procedures for combating infection is available on the company’s Web site. Product information and material safety data sheets are also available on the site. An e-learning training program is available for school staffs to take and test at their own pace. Customer technical service is available by phone 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

Oxivir Tb and Carpe Diem Tb disinfectants are available through authorized Johnson Wax Professional and Butchers distributors. For more information about JohnsonDiversey products or advice on hygiene and sanitation programs, please contact JohnsonDiversey at 1-800-558-2332, option 5, or visit www.ahptechnology.com/MRSA.

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JohnsonDiversey Inc. is a leading global provider of commercial cleaning, sanitation and hygiene solutions, serving customers in the lodging, food service, retail, health care and food and beverage sectors as well as building service contractors.

JohnsonDiversey is a one of four separate companies controlled by the Johnson Family of Racine, Wis. With operations in 56 countries and sales into more than 160 countries, JohnsonDiversey provides customers worldwide with the products, solutions and expertise to make their facilities the safest and cleanest in the world.

Contact:
Greg Bell
Director, Global External Communication
262-631-4127
greg.bell@johnsondiverse.com

