

## Annex 7. Disinfection

### Disinfectants

Chlorine is the best disinfectant for use against A(H5N1) contamination. There are two main reasons for this:

1. In many countries it is the only cheap and easily available disinfectant effective against influenza viruses.
2. It is one of the few disinfectants that can safely be used in laboratories where PCR work is undertaken because it fragments nucleic acids. Other disinfectants such as quaternary ammonium compounds and alcohols precipitate nucleic acids and can give false results in PCR tests (see below).

The best compound for the preparation of chlorine solutions for disinfection is household bleach (also known by other names such as Chlorox®, Eau-de-Javel). Household bleach is a solution of sodium hypochlorite which generally contains 5% (50 g/litre or 50 000 ppm) available chlorine.