

RE: Decontamination of COVID-19 Exposed Axon Products

Law enforcement officers around the world are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 as they interact with the public. Each law enforcement agency should develop and follow its own policies and procedures for cleaning and decontaminating products manufactured by Axon Enterprise, Inc. (“Axon”). However, due to the recent categorization of COVID-19 as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), Axon provides the following guidance on the decontamination of Axon’s body worn cameras (“BWCs”), sensors, TASER® conducted energy weapons (“CEWs”), and all product accessories from potential COVID-19 exposure. Current evidence suggests that the COVID-19 virus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials.¹

Check the recommended cleaning and disinfecting agents deemed suitable by medical authorities in your country for cleaning and disinfecting items suspected of having been exposed to COVID-19, and in line with your agency’s biohazard risk reduction strategy.

In addition to regularly cleaning and disinfecting equipment and surfaces, the United States’ Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends disinfecting material and surfaces potentially exposed to COVID-19 with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant. Axon has performed testing on several EPA registered PDI Sani-Cloth® wipes, including: PDI Sani-Cloth HB, PDI Sani-Cloth AF3, PDI Sani-Cloth Plus, PDI Sani-Cloth Bleach, and PDI Super Sani-Cloth. The testing resulted in no negative effects to the plastic, rubber, metal, and glass materials of Axon’s products. Axon recommends PDI Sani-Cloth products because of their ease of use and ability to control the amount of moisture exposed to the device. Axon products should be wiped with the Sani-Cloth (or a cloth dampened with an equivalent disinfectant, such as a 10:1 mixture of water and bleach), but not immersed or soaked with risk of allowing moisture to seep into the device. Allow the device to dry before use. When handling CEW’s during this process, they should be placed on safe, all live cartridges removed and wiped separately. Use caution when disinfecting CEW cartridges, pointing the cartridge in a safe direction, and using only a damp disinfecting cloth to prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD). Allow CEW cartridges to dry before reinserting them into the CEW. The dry time will vary depending on humidity and airflow around the device.

Each law enforcement agency should establish its own policies and procedures for CEW probe removal and collection; however, as a general rule, probes that have penetrated the body should be treated as contaminated needles (biohazard), regardless of whether the person is suspected of being infected with COVID-19 or not. During and after probe removal from a subject, follow all agency policies and procedures for handling biohazards and all current recommendations for COVID-19 risk mitigation.

Additional information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)”:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>

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¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>