The Dangers of Infection for First Responders

Police officers must qualify with their firearms to maintain proficiency in case the need to use their weapon arises on or off duty. Officers are taught precision driving in both high and low speed situations. They are taught hand-to-hand defensive tactics for the control of combative persons. They are taught to write police reports for submission to the court system. They are taught the constitution and laws of arrest. They are taught CPR and first aid for immediate life support. Officers are expected to make life and death decisions within fractions of a second in order to save a life.

Most police departments teach basic infectious control protection modalities such as gloving up when conducting searches of persons, vehicles, control substances and residences. Officers are given Hepatitis B and H1N1 vaccinations to help fight infections. Their police cars are sprayed with EPA-sanctioned products and sanitizers to combat cross-contamination. Finally, officers are given alcohol-based products and told that the use of these products on their hands will protect them from cross-contamination and kill microbes (bacteria, viruses and fungi) which cause infection. Why do officers bring infections home with them? Do these sanitizing and hygienic modalities really protect "first responders" from viral and/or bacterial contamination?

All of these listed "safe-guards" help to combat the problems; however, I have gained some wisdom through research and I would like to pass these truths on to my fellow officers, fire fighters, paramedics, nurses, and infectious control managers:

Alcohol-based products kill most, but not all bacteria, and they also kill the "good" or non-pathogenic microbes on the hands. These products dry out the skin which opens the door to pathogenic, microbial transfer. Using bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms and school settings is a "breeding ground" for cross-contamination.

The University of Arizona and Gojo industries conducted a study on the use of bulk soap dispensers used in public restrooms, schools and hospitals. "We were surprised to learn that the soap from one in four bulk dispensers is contaminated with an average of more than three million bacteria, many of which are known to be opportunistic pathogens," said Carrie Zapka, microbiology scientist with Gojo industries.[1] If this is true, why are we still using these dispensers in public restrooms, schools and hospitals? Think of the persons who work in the food industries who handle our foods, use the restrooms and bulk soap dispensers. No wonder there are *E.coli* breakouts within the fast food industry. In the state of Illinois, Doctors Inc (DBA Subway Restaurants) is having severe outbreaks of viral infections among their employees. Are these outbreaks related to the use of alcohol-based products or bulk soap dispensers?

Looking at the products, which claim to kill infection, I have not been able to see any third party lab tests of efficacy. The products, which claim they have clinical,

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[1] Boston USA, National Association of School Nurses Study, "One Fourth of Bulk Soap is Contaminated,"2009.

antimicrobial efficacy, do not make their studies available to consumers. Why is that? Do these studies really exist? I have my doubts. Are the laboratories used by these companies owned by these companies and paid to publish false and/or fraudulent information?

Is there an answer for this threat of infection? Yes there is! There is a company known as ***Biocence BGP*** from California. They have an "all-natural, botanical product which kills MRSA, H1N1 and a great many viruses "on contact" in "0" kill-time. The owner, Mr. Allan Lord, truly has a "miracle product," which I now use in my job as do many other "first responders" and K9 units. His lab results are posted on his website! This is transparency; this is ethical. His product has saved the feet of several people who were candidates for amputation due to MRSA infection.

There are so many people in public service who come into contact with deadly microbes and just need the guidance to protect them. A product such as ***Biocence*** can offer that protection to these wonderful people who serve us each and every day.

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