



## **First published scientific data confirms that actives in leading hygiene products are >99.9% effective against SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19)**

*American Journal of Infection Control* abstract supports scientific understanding and confirms actives in Dettol and Lysol are effective in breaking the chain of infection of COVID-

19

**London, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020** - A new study designed to increase the understanding of methods to combat the spread of COVID-19 has confirmed that active ingredients in many of the leading hygiene brands are >99.9% effective against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The findings were published in *The American Journal of Infection Control* ([AJIC](#)).

The study is the first published evaluation of the virucidal efficacy of personal care and surface cleaning and disinfection products against SARS-CoV-2 using internationally established standards<sup>1</sup> The laboratory tests examined active ingredients<sup>1</sup> in well-known and widely-used brands (Dettol and Lysol) antiseptic liquid, hand sanitiser, hand wash, disinfectant spray, personal care and surface wipes, bar soap, surface cleanser and laundry sanitiser. The study found all microbicidal actives to be effective at inactivating SARS-CoV-2, demonstrating a reduction of infectious virus within the tested 1 to 5 minutes.

The researchers highlighted that the findings are significant given the practical importance of microbicides having efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 in the home, community, and healthcare settings.

Dr Bruce Charlesworth, Chief Medical Officer at RB commented, “Our hope is that these findings will be useful to the infection prevention and control community in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a positive development and is fully consistent with our expectations. We will continue to develop scientific evidence to support our product portfolio to enable effective, science-led communication around hygiene.”

This study is what is believed to be the most comprehensive evaluation to date, covering all active ingredients across the majority of the portfolio and product formulations. Where required, we have submitted this data to regulatory authorities for their review and approval.

These studies form part of a wider commitment by RB, a leader in hygiene, to contribute to scientific knowledge around hygiene and COVID-19 and to ensure that all of its communication with stakeholders is evidence-based. Other initiatives include working closely with leading scientific experts and academic institutions in the field of hygiene and infection control to educate the public on the importance of hygiene, as well as supporting frontline healthcare workers.

### **References**

1. Microbicidal Actives with Virucidal Efficacy against SARS-CoV-2: M Khalid Ijaz et al. *AJIC, American Journal of Infection Control* (2020), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2020.05.015>

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**About RB our response to COVID-19**

RB\* is driven by its purpose to protect, heal and nurture in a relentless pursuit of a cleaner, healthier world. We fight to make access to the highest-quality hygiene, wellness and nourishment a right, not a privilege, for everyone.

As a global leader in hygiene, health & nutrition, we have a responsibility to play our part in combating Coronavirus. Since the outbreak began, we have undertaken initiatives to donate, educate and inform.

Highlights include:

- In March, launching the [Fight for Access Fund](#) to improve access to health, hygiene and nutrition for all, which is, and will be, a demonstration of our commitment to protect, heal and nurture in the relentless pursuit of a cleaner, healthier world.
- To deliver on commitment we have set aside the equivalent of one per cent of adjusted operating profit each year to this Fund, committed over £40 million to benefit communities consistent with our purpose and reinvested a further £10 million of COVID-19 cost savings in support of local initiatives.
- We have made donations in Wuhan, across Africa, in the US to the CDC Foundation, in South Asia, South East Asia and the Middle East.
- The Dettol India The Hand Wash Challenge campaign with TikTok has reached over 100 billion views. This record-breaking campaign getting important behaviour change messages to young people on the necessity of hand washing.
- Partnering with the Economist Intelligence Unit, along with other public health experts, to **create the Myth Busting website** in the fight against what the WHO has coined as the '**Infodemic**' or the spread of misinformation. [Covid-19facts.com](#) is a platform for education which has reached millions of consumers with credible scientific information.

For more information on what RB is doing to combat COVID-19, visit:

<https://www.rb.com/about-us/coronavirus-information/>