



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

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### **MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (MERS)**

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is viral respiratory illness first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. It is caused by a coronavirus called MERS-CoV. Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses which are quite easily inactivated by a sufficient concentration of ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol or mixtures thereof (1).

Given the multitude of viruses we know today, it is not possible and sometimes also not necessary to test the efficacy of antiseptics and disinfectants against each single virus type.

Alcoholic hand disinfectant based on a mixture of 45% isopropanol and 30% n-propanol has been described to be effective against severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus (SARS-CoV) within 30 s and with different types of organic load (2). Sterillium® consists of a mixture of 45% isopropanol and 30% n-propanol and can therefore be considered to be effective against MERS coronavirus.

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### **References**

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2. **Kampf G, Rabenau H, Cinatl J, Doerr H.** Efficacy of various disinfectants against SARS coronavirus. *JHI*. 2005;61:107-111.