

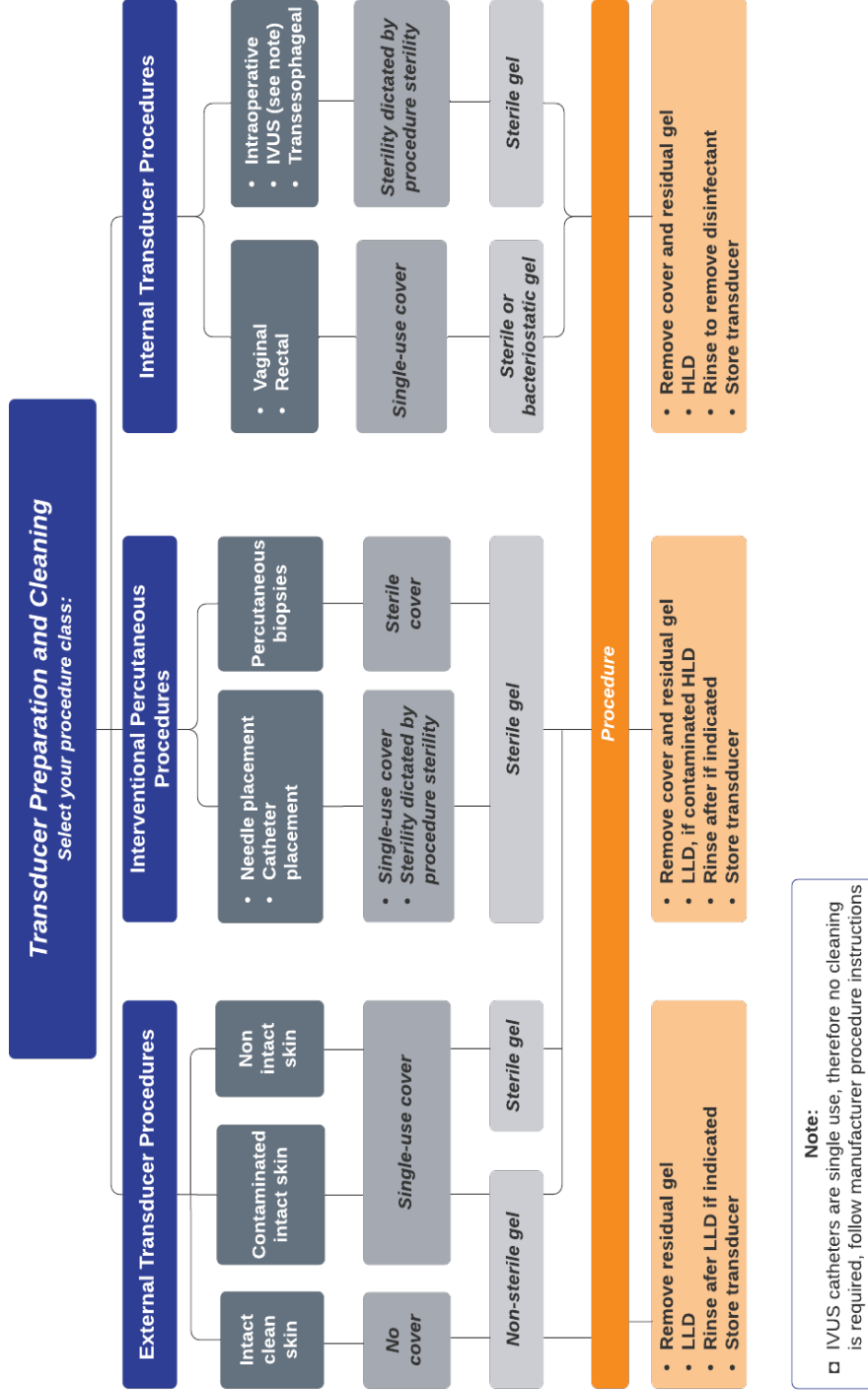
Quick Guide on COVID-19 Protections — Ultrasound Transducers, Equipment, and Gel

- **Level of disinfection:** For external and interventional procedures low-level disinfection is effective per CDC guidelines.⁽¹⁾ Currently, EPA approved disinfectants for use against COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) can be found online.⁽²⁾ If LLD agents are depleted soap and water should be used per CDC guidelines. If indicated but no transducer covers are available, medical gloves or other physical barriers (e.g. compatible medical dressings) should be used.
- **Education and execution:** Dissemination of cleaning guidelines is essential and so is their proper execution.⁽¹⁰⁾
- **Equipment:** Cleaning involves all ancillary equipment involved in the procedure at hand. A cover sheet may be used as a physical barrier between the keyboard/console and the operator, in addition to LLD cleaning. If possible, use a dedicated system (scanner and transducers) for COVID-19, positive or suspected, patients. COVID-19 is viable on plastic surfaces for up to 72 hours⁽²⁵⁾
- Special attention needs to be paid to COVID-19 and other respiratory infection cases requiring aerosolization procedures, i.e. mechanical ventilation, aerosolization application, etc. Here a transducer cover should be used and the entire equipment requires full LLD (top to bottom) as pathogens are likely to become airborne.

References

- ¹National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) DoVD. Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>. Published 2020. Updated March 6, 2020. Accessed 2020 March 24, 2020.
- ²Agency USEP. List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. Published 2020. Updated March 20, 2020 March 23, 2020.10.
- ³Westerway SC, Basseal JM. The ultrasound unit and infection control - Are we on the right track? *Ultrasound* 2017;25(1):53-57. doi: 10.1177/1742271X16688720
- ⁴van Doremalen N, Bushmaker T, Morris DH, Holbrook MG, Gamble A, Williamson BN, Tamin A, Harcourt JL, Thornburg NJ, Gerber SI, Lloyd-Smith JO. Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2020 Mar 17.

Transducer Cleaning Procedures Flowchart*



*Taken from the AIUM Guidelines for Cleaning and Preparing External- and Internal-Use Ultrasound

Transducers Between Patients & Safe Handling and Use of Ultrasound Coupling Gel