

The Finnish device fights the virus

Technology: Viruses and bacteria die from surfaces with gaseous hydrogen peroxide (VHP).

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The decontamination device utilizing gaseous hydrogen peroxide (VHP) fits in the briefcase. It was launched in Mikkeli on Wednesday.

Originally developed for military use in Finland, the decontamination device may prove to be an effective tool when healthcare professionals are fighting to curb the coronavirus epidemic in the coming months.

The device using gaseous hydrogen peroxide (VHP) destroys or decontaminates microbes on the surfaces without damaging sensitive electronic devices, the manufacturer promises.

It was the first hospital district in Finland to adopt the South Savo Essote Municipal Association in Mikkeli on Wednesday.

The device was immediately put into action. It cleaned up an ambulance that last week transported a person suspected of having coronavirus.

For ambulance staff, transporting the patient was a challenging situation as the patient behaved impartially.

Under normal circumstances, the ambulance is cleaned after each alarm. During a coronavirus epidemic, cleaning by wiping the surfaces may not be enough to ensure that staff and other patients are not exposed to the virus.

Healthy nursing staff is an important cornerstone in curbing the coronary epidemic.

Essote device had been tested before.

- At Essote, the device can be used for cleaning premises and vehicles. These are important, for example, when you need to set up a temporary hospital or even if you have been transported by ambulance to a diseased coronavirus patient.

"The device can be used to ensure the safety of health care personnel and subsequent patients." Santeri Seppälä, Director of Health Services at Essote.

Panu Wilska, CEO of CLEAMIX OY, who has trained in operation in Mikkeli, says that international interest in the device has grown with the corona epidemic.

The device was originally developed for the Defense Forces to neutralize biological and chemical weapons. The cost of the device is tens of thousands of euros.

The advantage of Wilska's device is the "suitcase size" and the fact that the device is effective enough to clean the surfaces of both norovirus and the hard-to-kill anthrax bacterium.

"So the device also works against hospital bacteria," says Wilska.

Wilska says he is concerned about whether Finland is sufficiently awake to fight the coronavirus. According to Wilska, the interest has come from abroad.

- Orders have come from South Korea, among others.

Gaseous hydrogen peroxide (VHP) has long been used in healthcare to control microbes.

For example, the VTT Technical Research Center has been involved in testing the device.