

Briefing note: Misting pilot

- As part of on-going COVID-safety arrangements, we are trialling 'misting', a system for treating room surfaces with an antiviral disinfectant applied in a fine spray.
- The scheme is being piloted across around 60 sites in order to maximise the COVID-safe use of specific operational spaces, including custody suites.
- Misting works by dispersing anti-viral disinfectant molecules into the air that settle on all surfaces, forming a long-lasting bond. The process is also sometimes known as fogging and provides a layer of protection which we understand can safeguard a single room for up to 28 days.
- During the trial, we're testing how long the protective layer lasts, rather than its effectiveness.
- We will continue with existing cleaning and safety processes during this time – there will be no changes to these during the pilot.
- Pilot sites have been selected by our colleagues in Prisoner Escorting and Custody Services (PECS), based at locations where either the ability to operate 'one person per cell per day' is no longer feasible, or where the frequent use of touchpoint cleaning is causing too much disruption.
- Misting has been used successfully by Transport for London on its Underground carriages, and the product is also being used by Boeing/Airbus and the NHS.
- If the pilot is successful, we will look at using the misting system more widely.