INCUBATOR DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL
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1. Take out plates and samples from incubator
2. Store all plates in another incubator or discard into bleach line
3. Remove water from incubator (by pipetman)
4. Clean inside of incubator with 70% ethanol
5. Remove fan and cover, clean with 70% ethanol and put back into incubator properly attached (see manual for detailed instructions)
6. Remove shelves from incubator and bake for 40 minutes in lab oven
7. After 40 minutes, put back into incubator properly attached
8. Into ethanol treated incubator, add 300 mL of autoclaved RO H2O

Now we will begin the actual decontamination cycle:

1. Open front door and glass door and leave open until the “door” alarm goes off (approx. 35 seconds)
2. While the door is open, hold the 90C button until the icon LED light flashes (the one with the steam and triangle and 90C should have a light flashing next to it)
3. Let go of the button
4. Shut the door
5. Door should read 37C for temperature and should read 25h (stands for 25 hours) in the CO2 display area
6. The decontamination cycle has officially started
7. To the front of the incubator put a sign “DECONTAMINATION IN PROCESS” DO NOT OPEN
8. Check back in 1 or 2 hours to be sure that the decontamination cycle is progressing properly

NEXT DAY (25 HOURS LATER)

1. The hours will be counting down (it will likely say 4 or less hours left on it). Just wait for the cycle to end.
2. Once it is on the last hour the incubator is already starting to cool itself back down to 37C so it should not be dangerous for you or burn you when you open it.
3. At the end of the cycle, remove the water in the incubator using a pipetor or sterile papers towels.
4. Keep the 90C button pressed for about 10 seconds ( or until the electronic display returns to the normal operating state 🡪 5% CO2 and 37C)
5. Put new water into the incubator
6. The entire process is now finished and you can remove the “DECONTAMINATION IN PROCESS” sign down from the front of the incubator
7. You can now place tissue culture plates in the incubator safely