The QUAT antimicrobial cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC) is in mouthwashes, lozenges, toothpaste, and nasal sprays. CPCs are associated with lung inflammation. Acute oral inhalation can be fatal.

Concentrations of quaternary ammonium compounds (QUATS or QACs) in the human body have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, raising health and safety concerns. EPA has certified several hazardous disinfectants as effective against COVID-19. Several safer disinfectants on EPA’s list are effective against the virus, including citric acid, ethanol, isopropanol, L-lactic acid, hydrogen peroxide, sodium bisulfate, dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid, and thymol.

1/3 of U.S. residents misuse toxic cleaners and disinfectants in a mistaken approach to preventing COVID-19.

Quats are among some of the most harmful disinfectants, are harmful to the respiratory system, and have adverse impacts on human health—cancer, genetic mutations, lower fertility and increased antibiotic resistance.

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Make safer choices: EPA has certified several hazardous disinfectants as effective against COVID-19. Several safer disinfectants on EPA’s list are effective against the virus, including citric acid, ethanol, isopropanol, L-lactic acid, hydrogen peroxide, sodium bisulfate, dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid, and thymol.

Learn more:
- beyondpesticides.org/resources/antibacterials/disinfectants-and-sanitizers
- beyondpesticides.org/resources/pesticide-induced-diseases-database/overview