



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities

Interim Recommendations for U.S. Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Summary of Recent Changes

Revisions made on 4/1/2020:

- Added guidance on the timing of disinfection after a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 case

Revisions made on 3/26/2020:

- Updated guidance for cleaning and disinfection of soft (porous) surfaces
- Updated links to EPA-registered disinfectant list
- Added guidance for disinfection of electronics
- Updated core disinfection/cleaning guidance

Background

There is much to learn about the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes [coronavirus disease 2019](#) (COVID-19). On what is currently known about the virus and about similar coronaviruses that cause SARS and MERS-CoV, person-to-person transmission happens most frequently among close contacts (within about 6 feet). This type of transmission occurs via respiratory droplets, but disease transmission via infectious aerosols is currently uncertain. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 general occurs much more commonly through respiratory droplets than through fomites. Current evidence suggests SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning and disinfection of surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral illnesses in community settings.

It is unknown how long the air inside a room occupied by someone with confirmed COVID-19 remains infectious. Facilities will need to consider factors such as the size of the room and the ventilation system (air flowrate [air changes per hour] and location of supply and exhaust vents) when deciding how long to

areas used by ill persons before beginning disinfection. Taking measures to improve ventilation in a someone was ill or suspected to be ill with COVID-19 will help shorten the time it takes respiratory c removed from the air.

Purpose

This guidance provides recommendations on the cleaning and disinfection of rooms or areas occup suspected or with confirmed COVID-19. It is aimed at limiting the survival of SARS-CoV-2 in key enviro recommendations will be updated if additional information becomes available.

These guidelines are focused on community, non-healthcare facilities such as schools, institutions o offices, daycare centers, businesses, and community centers that do, and do not, house persons ov guidelines are not meant for [cleaning staff in healthcare facilities](#) or repatriation sites, [households](#), whom specific guidance already exists.

Definitions

- *Community facilities* such as schools, daycare centers, and businesses comprise most non-hea are visited by the general public outside of a household.
- *Cleaning* refers to the removal of dirt and impurities, including germs, from surfaces. Cleaning germs. But by removing the germs, it decreases their number and therefore any risk of spread
- *Disinfecting* works by using chemicals, for example EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs c process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. But killing germs remaining cleaning further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

Cleaning and Disinfection After Persons Suspected/Confirmed to Have Have Been in the Facility

Timing and location of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces

- At a school, daycare center, office, or other facility that does not house people overnight:
 - Close off areas visited by the ill persons. Open outside doors and windows and use ventil air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours or as long as practical before beginning cleaning
 - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, commor electronic equipment (like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- At a facility that does house people overnight:

- Follow Interim Guidance for [US Institutions of Higher Education](#) on working with state and to isolate ill persons and provide temporary housing as needed.
- Close off areas visited by the ill persons. Open outside doors and windows and use ventilator to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours or as long as practical before beginning cleaning.
- In areas where ill persons are being housed in isolation, follow [Interim Guidance for Environmental and Disinfection for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) focusing on cleaning and disinfecting common areas where staff/others providing services to ill persons but reducing cleaning and disinfection of bedrooms/bathroom to as-needed.
- In areas where ill persons have visited or used, continue routine cleaning and disinfection.
- If it has been more than 7 days since the person with suspected/confirmed COVID-19 visited or used, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.

How to Clean and Disinfect

Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
 - A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available at [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/epa-approved-disinfectants-against-covid-19](#). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products for concentration, application method and contact time, etc.
 - Additionally, diluted household bleach solutions (at least 1000ppm sodium hypochlorite) are effective for disinfection on hard surfaces appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application, ensuring a minimum contact time of at least 1 minute, and allowing proper ventilation during and after application. Check to ensure bleach is past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. Bleach solutions are effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.
 - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water or
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Soft (Porous) Surfaces

- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination first. Then clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
 - If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
 - Otherwise, use products [that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19](#).

and that are suitable for porous surfaces

Electronics

- For electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines, contamination if present.
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
 - Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
 - If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or spray 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

Linens, Clothing, and Other Items That Go in the Laundry

- In order to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry.
- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, laund warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that h with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
- Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance abo surfaces.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hand Hygiene

- The risk of exposure to cleaning staff is inherently low. Cleaning staff should wear disposable for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
 - Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used a risk of splash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and area. Be sure to **clean** hands after removing gloves.
 - If gowns are not available, coveralls, aprons or work uniforms can be worn during cleaning. Reusable (washable) clothing should be laundered afterwards. Clean hands after handling
- Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons. **Clean hands** i gloves are removed.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE such as a tear in gloves or any other to their supervisor.
- Cleaning staff and others should **clean** hands often, including immediately after removing glo with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol n

if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.

- Follow normal preventive actions while at work and home, including cleaning hands and avoid nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Additional key times to clean hands include:
 - After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - After using the restroom.
 - Before eating or preparing food.
 - After contact with animals or pets.
 - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance su

Additional Considerations for Employers

- Employers should work with their local and state health departments to ensure appropriate lo guidelines, such as updated/additional guidance for cleaning and disinfection, are followed, inc identification of new potential cases of COVID-19.
- Employers should educate staff and workers performing cleaning, laundry, and trash pick-up a the symptoms of COVID-19 and provide instructions on what to do if they develop [symptoms](#) v their last possible exposure to the virus. At a minimum, any staff should immediately notify the local health department if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. The health department will pr what actions need to be taken.
- Employers should develop policies for worker protection and provide training to all cleaning st providing cleaning tasks. Training should include when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and how to properly dispose of PPE.
- Employers must ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in t accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard ([29 CFR 1910.1200](#) [↗](#)).
- Employers must comply with OSHA's standards on Bloodborne Pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#) [disposal of regulated waste, and PPE ([29 CFR 1910.132](#) [↗](#)).

Additional Resources

- [OSHA COVID-19 Website](#) [↗](#)
- [CDC Home Care Guidance](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance for Households](#)
- [CDC Home Care Guidance for People with Pets](#)
- [Find Answers to Common Cleaning and Disinfection Questions](#)
- [EPA's 6 Steps for Safe and Effective Disinfectant Use](#) [↗](#)

