

## Cleaning and disinfecting

### Cleaning

- Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

### Disinfecting

- Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use a household disinfectant. It is recommended to use an EPA-registered household disinfectant (see website below).
- Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for a period of time (see product label) or taking precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use.
- Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface.
  - Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection, and ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing or for whitening may not be suitable for disinfection. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
  - Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner. Leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.
  - To make a bleach solution, mix 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water OR 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water. Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.
- Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.

### Soft surfaces (carpeted floors, rugs, drapes)

- Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely OR disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant.

### Electronics (tablets, touch screens, keyboards and remote controls)

- Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer's instruction for cleaning and disinfecting. If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surface thoroughly.

## Laundry (clothing, towels, linens and other items)

- Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick. Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people's items. Do not shake dirty laundry.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces.
- Remove gloves and wash hands right away.

## Cleaning and disinfecting your building or facility if someone is sick

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick. Specific areas can be closed off without the entire facility closing.
- Get ventilation. Open outside doors and windows and use fans to increase air circulation in the area.
- Try to wait at least 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines. Once area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
- Workers without close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection.
- If more than 7 days since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that businesses and communities normally use to maintain a healthy environment.

## Cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas

- Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection. Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds - it is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to the public.
- High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.
- Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.
- Sidewalks and roads should not be disinfected. Spread of COVID-19 from these surfaces is very low and disinfection is not effective.

## When Cleaning

- Regular cleaning staff can clean and disinfect community spaces. Ensure they are trained on appropriate use of cleaning and disinfection chemicals.
- Wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash. Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash. Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Always wash immediately after removing gloves and after contact with a person who is sick. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used.
- Additional key times to wash 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 (e.g., a child)

## Additional Considerations for Employers

- Educate workers performing cleaning, laundry, and trash pick-up to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Provide instructions on what to do if they develop symptoms within 14 days after their last possible exposure to the virus.
- Develop policies for worker protection and provide training to all cleaning staff on site prior to providing cleaning tasks. Training should include when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and how to properly dispose of PPE.
- Ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace in accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard.
- Comply with OSHA's standards on Bloodborne Pathogens, including proper disposal of regulated waste, and PPE.
- COVID approved disinfectant: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

For more information, visit:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html)