

ATTACHMENT A

COVID-19 “Minimum Environmental Cleaning Standards” for Business, Schools, and SRO Settings March 9, 2020

This guidance provides confirmation of the cleaning and disinfection standards for rooms or common areas of those with suspected or with confirmed COVID-19 have visited. It is aimed at limiting the survival of novel coronavirus in key environments. These recommendations will be updated if additional information becomes available.

Intended audience: These guidelines are focused on community, non-healthcare facilities (e.g., schools, institutions of higher education, offices, daycare centers, businesses, community centers) that do and do not house persons overnight.

How does the COVID-19 spread?

The virus spreads from person-to-person through close contact (within about 6 feet).

Can COVID-19 spread by contaminated surfaces?

There is still so much to learn about the virus, but the spreading of the virus from surfaces to people has not been documented yet. Current evidence suggests that the virus may remain infectious for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials.

How can I clean to protect myself and others?

Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks) with household cleaners. Clean on a daily basis, increasing frequency if surfaces are found to be dirty during spot-checks performed throughout the day.

Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.

Is it necessary to use a disinfectant?

If surfaces are dirty, clean them first using a detergent and water and then disinfect them.

Which types of disinfectants will kill the COVID-19?

A list of products suitable for use against COVID-19, prepared by the American Chemistry Council’s Center for Biocide Chemistries is attached. It is not complete or exhaustive; any disinfectant which the manufacturer states meets the EPA’s Emerging Viral Pathogens (EVP) requirement can be used. Manufacturer’s statements are most commonly found on the manufacturer’s website or in letters issued by the manufacturer. When no such products are available, a dilute household bleach solution can be made from:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach added to one gallon of water or
- 4 teaspoons bleach added to one quart of water

Are there any precautions I should take when using disinfectants?

1. Make sure there is good ventilation during the use of the product when cleaning. Open available windows or doors to the outside.
2. Always use disinfectants according to the label instructions.
3. Use the safety equipment specified on the label.
4. Even if not required by the label wear gloves.
 - a. Fresh disposable gloves should be used for cleaning. Gloves should be changed immediately after using disinfectants. Do not attempt to reuse disposable gloves.
 - b. Clean the outside of reusable gloves immediately after using disinfectants. You can use your disinfectant to clean the gloves.

Always wash your hands immediately after removing your gloves. If running water is not available use hand

ATTACHMENT A

sanitizer.

5. Wear eye protection (goggles or safety glasses) if spraying cleaning chemicals above shoulder height.
6. For concentrated products requiring dilution, do not use more of the product than is specified on the label. Using more product does not improve cleaning, but it may cause problems for the user and room occupants. Make sure there is good ventilation during the use of the product.
7. Do not use alcohol for cleaning, it is a fire hazard.

AT FACILITIES THAT HOUSE PEOPLE OVERNIGHT, including Single Resident Occupancy Hotels:

- Every communal sink shall be equipped with soap.
- Every communal gathering area shall be equipped with hand sanitizer when available.
- Follow Interim Guidance for [US Institutions of Higher Education](#) on working with state and local health officials to isolate ill persons and provide temporary housing as needed.
- It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
- In areas where ill persons are being housed in isolation. This includes focusing on cleaning and disinfecting common areas where staff/others providing services may come into contact with ill persons, but reducing cleaning and disinfection of bedrooms/bathrooms used by ill persons to as needed.
- In areas where ill persons have visited or used, continue routine cleaning and disinfection as in this guidance.

Surfaces

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, see *“Which types of disinfectants will kill the COVID-19?”* above.
- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and 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 using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
 - Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claim that are suitable for porous surfaces

○

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

- Do not shake dirty laundry; this minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact 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 above for hard or soft surfaces.

Trash:

- Wear gloves.
- Only handle trash bags by their empty upper sections. Do not hold the trash bag against your body.
- Tie the trash bag off before placing it into the conventional (municipal) waste.

Safety:

- Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash. If there is the possibility of body contact with an infected person or contaminated surfaces, gowns or disposable suits should be worn.
- Gloves and protective garments should be removed carefully inside out to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to [clean](#) hands after removing gloves.
- Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons. [Clean hands](#) immediately after gloves are removed.

ATTACHMENT A

- Cleaning staff and others should [clean](#) hands often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used. However, 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 avoiding touching eyes, 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 (e.g., a child)

Resources:

[Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations - Interim Recommendations for US Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus \(March 6, 2020\)](#)

[Interim Guidance for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019.](#)

Interim Guidance for [US Institutions of Higher Education](#)