



## CLEANING & DISINFECTION

For Facilities After Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Exposure

### Timing and location of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces.

**At a school, daycare center, office, or other facility that does not house people overnight:**

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.



- Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted (should have an active ingredient of at least 5% sodium hypochlorite).



**Prepare a bleach solution by mixing one cup of bleach to 9 cups of water.**

Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

### How to clean and disinfect.

#### Surfaces

**If surfaces are dirty**, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.

- Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation.
- Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.



#### Soft Surfaces

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 claims **that are suitable for porous surfaces.**



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

- Do not shake dirty laundry; this minimizes 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.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand hygiene considerations.

Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns 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 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. 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.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures to their supervisor.

## Cleaning staff and others should clean hands often.

Clean hands often including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If soap and warm water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and warm water.

Follow normal preventive actions while at work and home, including cleaning hands and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth. 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)

