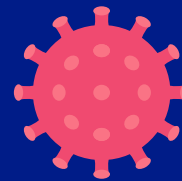


COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



Cleaning & Disinfection of Community Facilities WITH known or suspected cases

BACKGROUND

The most common form of spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is through direct person-to-person contact and exposure to the respiratory droplets of an infected person.

To date, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the transmission of novel coronavirus to people from contaminated surfaces has not been documented. Early research does show, however, the presence of COVID-19 can be detected on different types of surfaces for hours (paper products) or a number of days (plastic and stainless steel) following contact or exposure to those who test positive for the coronavirus.

Appropriate cleaning followed by disinfection of an area where a person suspected of having COVID-19 has been is a reasonable best-practice measure for preventing spread of disease.

WHAT TO DO

WAIT—research shows after 72 hours, the presence of a virus on a surface has significantly dropped. If you suspect an area/room is contaminated, where possible allow this die-off to occur and wait 24 hours before cleaning.

Where possible, increased ventilation before entering is also advised.

PROTECT—before cleaning, always protect yourself, whether in a home-care setting or a commercial or non-home setting. Always use, as a minimum, gloves and an apron, if available. For tougher jobs with clearly visible contamination, add additional protection such as goggles, mask and/or face shields. Remember PPE requirements may also vary with the type of chemical used.

CLEAN—remove all dirt and impurities from surfaces using a detergent solution and water. This step is important, but remember cleaning does not kill germs; it decreases their amount on a surface.

DISINFECT—This is most important! Disinfecting will kill germs on a surface. Use an appropriate EPA-approved disinfectant, such as sodium hypochlorite (bleach), but only *after* cleaning the surface. Find a list of other EPA-approved chemicals [here](#).

DISPOSE—Hold all trash for 72 hours in a secure location. After this period; disposal along with general trash is permitted under current guidelines. (CDC/PHE)

Advice on Cleaning

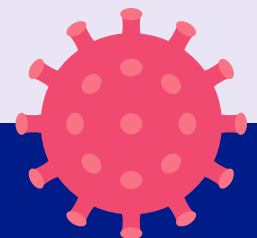
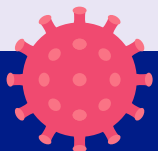
Evaluate the area to be cleaned. Focus on all high- or frequently touched surfaces (FTS)—this may include phones, keyboards, counters, tables, desks, chairs, handrails, light switches, door knobs, and drawer, cabinet and closet handles. Clean bathroom facilities thoroughly, including sinks/taps, faucets, toilet lids, seat and lever. Clean stall doors, handles and dividers. Include surrounding tile and dispensers.

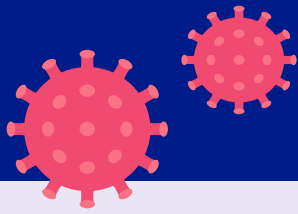
Clean soft surfaces—launder items that can be washed using the hottest temperature possible. Clean items that cannot be laundered with a spray or cleaners recommended for the surface.

Advice on Disinfecting

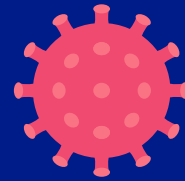
When choosing a disinfectant —consider the setting (ventilation, etc). Follow the manufacturer's directions, including those for concentration, method of application and contact time. Do not mix any chemical disinfectant at higher concentrations not permitted by the manufacturer.

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19 by visiting the Government of Bermuda's website [coronavirus.gov.bm](https://www.gov.bm/coronavirus)





COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



COMMERCIAL AND CUSTODIAL CLEANING GUIDELINES

The following precautions should be taken at commercial facilities with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19:

- Close off the area and wait as long as practical before cleaning and disinfection (if possible, wait at least up to 72 hours/24 hours minimum)
- When cleaning and disinfecting:
 - where possible, open all doors and windows to increase ventilation and air circulation
 - where possible, use disposable cloths/paper rolls and disposable mop heads
 - avoid creating splashes and spraying while cleaning
- Clean and disinfect all potential areas used by ill individuals (e.g. offices, bathrooms and common areas). Pay particular attention to frequently touched surfaces (FTS). Cleaning should be done with warm, soapy water. Disinfection should be done using a diluted household bleach solution (5 tablespoons or 1/3 cup bleach for every gallon of water OR 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water) or a US EPA-registered disinfectant listed here. Follow all instructions on the label and ensure the product is not past its expiry date
- High-pressure washing is not recommended
- For soft, porous surfaces, such as carpeted floors, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination with appropriate cleaners and launder items as appropriate
- DO NOT shake soiled laundry to minimise contamination
 - REMEMBER to clean and disinfect anything used to transport laundry items

- If items cannot be cleaned or laundered, use sanitising steam to clean and sanitize

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements

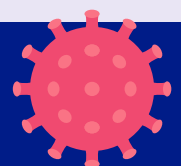
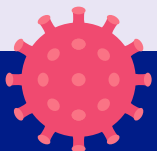
- At a minimum, disposable gloves and aprons should be worn by all cleaning staff
- Ensure gloves used are compatible with cleaning products chosen
- Follow all safety precautions as outlined in the product Safety Data Sheet, including those for PPE use
- PPE must be removed properly to avoid possible contamination of the wearer and surrounding areas
- Gloves should be properly removed and discarded after each cleaning. Cleaning personnel must wash hands immediately after PPE is removed
- If surfaces contain visible bodily fluids, additional PPE is required to protect the eyes, nose and mouth. Protective masks and eye protection must be worn in this case
- Only re-usable PPE (goggles etc) should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Do not clean and re-use disposable PPE.

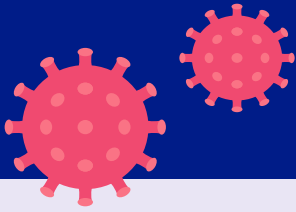
Disposal of Waste and PPE

- As a general precaution, all disposable cleaning items and waste should be double bagged and stored securely for 72 hours after the cleaning process. Following this, waste can be discarded with general trash
- All hazardous chemicals must be properly handled and disposed of according to the manufacturer and local hazardous-waste disposal requirements.



Figure 1. Steps for disposal of waste from community facilities or households with known or suspected cases of COVID-19





COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Adequate Training for Cleaning Personnel

All people required to perform cleaning duties in commercial facilities with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 must be adequately trained in the following:

- General guidance and information about infection prevention and control measures, including those for COVID-19
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) requirements when cleaning, and when to use/how to choose appropriate PPE
- Proper steps for using, putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) PPE
- Guidelines for disposal of waste and PPE, as outlined above
- Hazards associated with handling, use, storage and disposal of all cleaning and disinfecting chemicals used, as outlined in the chemical safety data sheet (SDS)



Figure 2. Summary of cleaning and disinfection advice for community facilities with known or suspected cases of COVID-19

Additional Resources

The following additional resources should be checked for additional information:

Government of Bermuda:

<https://www.gov.bm/coronavirus>

CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

Recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Public Health England, COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

US EPA-registered disinfectants:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873778/COVID19_Guidance_Cleaning.pdf

