

March 22, 2020

## **Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Facilities in Response to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Public buildings and facilities visited by the general public should perform additional cleaning and disinfection activities in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). COVID-19 is believed to be transmitted primarily by close person-to-person contact (within about 6 feet) via respiratory droplets. Current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may also remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings. This document provides recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on cleaning and disinfecting non-healthcare facilities visited by the general public to limit the survival of COVID-19 in community settings.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting 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. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
  - o 5 tablespoons (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup) bleach per gallon of water or
  - o 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
  - o Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens icon 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.).
  - o 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:
    - o 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.
    - o Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens icon that are suitable for porous surfaces

### **Laundered Linens and Clothing**

- 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.

### **Recommendations for Cleaning Staff**

- **Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.**
  - o Gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
  - o Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
  - o 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**, 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.
  - o 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)

If you have additional questions about disinfection and cleaning in response to COVID-19, please call the New Mexico Department of Health's COVID-19 hotline at 1-833-551-0518.