



## Chester County Health Department

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### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-Healthcare Settings for COVID-19

In order to ensure sanitary environments for individuals and groups in non-healthcare settings, the following cleaning guidance is recommended. Please see the attachment for a list of cleaning supplies that is suggested at this time by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Also, please note that this is an emerging event and guidance will be updated accordingly.

**Cleaning** refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

**Disinfecting** refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

#### **Cleaning practices for the duration of the outbreak:**

No special cleaning procedures, materials, or additional personal protective equipment beyond what would normally be used during routine cleaning is required. However, to improve infection prevention, targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, remote controls, and any other surfaces that are visibly soiled is recommended.

#### **Cleaning and Disinfection of Areas Where Symptomatic Individuals have been located:**

If an individual develops symptoms of COVID-19, cleaning and disinfection should be completed after they leave the area. If feasible, the area should be left with the door closed after the individual is transferred, and entry should be prohibited while the individual's symptoms are being investigated and/or laboratory confirmation is pending. Determining if an individual has COVID-19 may take several days.

In this situation, if the individual is determined not to have COVID-19, the Health Department recommends that the facility's routine cleaning be performed. If the individual was determined to have COVID-19, the Health Department strongly recommends the following cleaning and disinfection procedure:

Once a symptomatic individual, who is confirmed to have COVID-19, has left the isolation area, the facility should proceed with cleaning and disinfection of the areas where the patient was present while symptomatic. Perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, remote controls, and any other surfaces that are visibly soiled.

Once a symptomatic individual recovers and is permitted to leave isolation and return to daily activities, there are no special cleaning steps that need to be taken once they return.

**Step 1: Cleaning:** Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants. Dirt and other materials on surfaces can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. Cleaning removes germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects, while disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Clean surfaces using water and soap or detergent to reduce soil and remove germs. For combination products that can both clean and disinfect, always follow the instructions on the specific product label to ensure effective use.

**Step 2: Disinfection:** If EPA-registered products specifically labeled for SARS-CoV-2 (the COVID-19 virus) are not available, disinfect surfaces using a disinfectant labeled to be effective against rhinovirus and/or human coronavirus. EPA-registered disinfectants specifically labeled as effective against SARS-CoV-2 may become more commercially available at a future time and once available, those products should be used for targeted disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.

Label directions must be followed when using disinfectants to ensure the target viruses are effectively killed. This includes adequate contact times (i.e. the amount of time a disinfectant should remain on surfaces to be effective), which may vary between five and ten minutes after application. Disinfectants that come in a wipe form will also list effective contact times on their label.

For disinfectants that come in concentrated forms, it is important to carefully follow instructions for making the diluted concentration needed to effectively kill the target virus. This information can be found on the product label.

**Staff Safety:**

Staff should be reminded to ensure procedures for safe and effective use of all products are followed. Safety instructions are listed on product labels and include the personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves) that should be used.

Facility staff do not need to wear respiratory protection while cleaning, unless indicated on the product label. Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling potentially soiled items and while cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Place all used gloves and other disposable contaminated items in a bag that can be tied closed before disposing of them with other waste.

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds immediately after removing gloves or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly soiled.

For further information on COVID-19, please see: <https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19>