

WYMD Environmental Cleaning of Non-healthcare Workplaces and Vehicles

1. Background

A recent study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* evaluated SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and SARS-CoV-1, the most closely related human coronavirus in aerosols and on various surfaces. In summary, the virus can remain viable and infectious in aerosol for hours and on surfaces up to days. The presence of viable virus was present in aerosol for the duration of the experiment, which was 3 hours. Viable virus was found on hard surfaces up to 96 hours, with plastics and stainless steel being more stable than copper and cardboard, where the virus deteriorated more rapidly (van Doremalen et. al., 2020).

Based on what is currently known about the virus, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts (within about 6 feet). This type of transmission occurs via respiratory droplets. Current evidence suggests that COVID 19 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Proper hand hygiene and cleaning of visibly dirty and high touch surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in workplaces and community settings.

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.

2. The following are procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and measures to take during suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposures within WYMD facilities.

- a. Full time unit staff (FTUS) and others should adhere to social distancing and telework guidance per the WYMD to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing is considered at least 6 feet between persons.
- b. FTUS should clean and disinfect personal work areas, common work areas, and high touch surface areas at a minimum of: start of the duty day, end of duty day, between uses if a shared work area, if visibly dirty as guidance is updated/changes. See below current guidance on routine environmental cleaning per CDC.

3. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Routine Cleaning in the Workplace/Vehicles for COVID-19

Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfection:

- a. Routinely clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace/Vehicles, such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, doorknobs, steering wheels and dashboards.

- i. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- b. Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- c. Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, other work tools and equipment) can be wiped down by employees before each use
- d. Professional disinfecting will be performed by a contractor if available when suspected positive employee was throughout the entire facility or not practical for FTUS or custodial/maintenance personnel. If suspected positive employee was confined to a small area within the facility, FTUS, along with custodial/maintenance staff at the facility (or a custodian at a nearby facility) should carry out cleaning and disinfecting
- e. FTUS will determine if the facility is all clear and report to JOC and chain of command as appropriate.

4. CDC Environmental Cleaning & Disinfecting Guidance after persons suspected/confirmed to have COVID-19

- a. Upon suspected positive exposure:
 - i. Identify all areas of possible exposure (i.e. sleeping bays, bathrooms, vehicles, etc.).
 - ii. Open outside doors and windows (if permissible)
 - iii. Vacate the area immediately if possible and notify chain of command
- b. If mission permits, restrict all access to cordoned areas and wait at least two hours after the sick person has left. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure.
- c. Obtain all required appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for personnel who will be conducting cleaning and disinfecting.
 - i. If a wait period of 24 hours has been achieved, surgical mask, disposable gloves and gowns are required.
 - ii. If unable to wait 24 hours, an N95 mask, eye pro/goggles, disposable gloves and gowns are required.
- d. Clean/Disinfect
 - i. For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

- (1) Unexpired **household bleach** will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. **Leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.**
 - (a) To make a bleach solution, mix:
 - (i) 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of room temperature water
OR
 - (ii) 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of room temperature water
 - (b) **Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.**
- (2) Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.
- ii. Clean/disinfect all areas possibly infected, including frequently touched surfaces
- iii. For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes:
 - (1) Remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
 - (2) After cleaning, launder 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
OR
 - (3) Use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims (examples at this link) that are suitable for porous surfaces.
 - (4) Vacuum as usual
- iv. Electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines
 - (1) Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
 - (2) Follow manufacturer's instruction for cleaning and disinfecting.
 - (3) If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surface thoroughly.
- v. Laundry such as towels, linens and other items
 - (1) Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
 - (2) Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.
 - (3) Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people's items.
 - (4) Do not shake dirty laundry.
 - (5) Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces.
 - (6) Remove gloves, and wash hands right away.
- e. Professional disinfecting will be performed by a contractor if available when suspected positive employee was throughout the entire facility or not practical for FTUS or custodial/maintenance personnel. If suspected positive employee was confined to a small area within the facility, FTUS, along with custodial/maintenance staff at the facility (or a custodian at a nearby facility) should carry out cleaning and disinfecting.
- f. FTUS conducting cleaning and disinfecting will determine if facility is all clear and report to JOC and chain of command as appropriate.
- g. If contractor hired to perform disinfecting, the unit will receive the all clear from contractors performing disinfecting and report to FTUS, JOC and chain of command.

- h. Once the area has been appropriately disinfected it can be opened for use.
 - i. Workers without close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection.
- i. If more than 7 days since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - i. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that businesses and communities normally use to maintain a healthy environment.

5. Reducing Transmission among Employees (refer to FRAGO 11 TO WYMD Response to COVID-19 Phase 2 Recovery)

- a. Symptomatic employees and those with symptomatic family members should notify their supervisor and stay home. Please reference FRAGO 11 to WYMD Response to COVID-19 Phase 2 Recovery Tab 7 WYMD Screening Questionnaire and Tab 8 WYMD Supervisor Screening Flow Chart.
- b. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met per FRAGO 11 to WYMD Response to COVID-19 Phase 2 Recovery Tab 7 WYMD Screening Questionnaire and Tab 8 WYMD Supervisor Screening Flow Chart and in consultation with healthcare providers, state and local health departments.
- c. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- d. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- e. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- f. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs. Dirty surfaces can be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, and are appropriate for the surface.
- g. Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- h. Practice social distancing (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.
- i. Use cloth face covering if unable to maintain 6 foot social distancing.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), (2020). Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). *Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility*. Everyday Steps, Steps When Someone is Sick, and Considerations for Employers. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM24835
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), (2020). Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). *Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
3. Colorado Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability (2020). CDPHE Environmental Cleaning Guidance for COVID-19. *Households and Regulated Facilities*. Retrieved from: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XQnjAL2nzdPnb7Dabz7-fX8Pw7XlyUe8/view>
4. van Doremalen, N., Bushmaker, T., Morris, D. H., Holbrook, M. G., Gamble, A., Williamson, B.N., ... & Lloyd-Smith, J. O. (2020). Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1. *New England Journal of Medicine*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>