COVID-19 PREVENTION AT UW: SANITIZATION AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS

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In alignment with public health recommendations, the University is taking steps to prevent community spread of COVID-19 through these sanitizing and disinfecting procedures. The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) prepared these guidelines to help ensure the health and safety of the University community.

GUIDANCE FOR PREVENTIVE SANITIZING AND DISINFECTING

EH&S is asking University units to follow enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures during the COVID-19 public health situation. Please focus on highly used areas and high-touch items, such as residence hall communal rooms, public restrooms, exercise rooms, library tables, buttons, handrails, tables, faucets, doorknobs, shared toys, and shared keyboards. Increased frequency of cleaning and sanitizing with attention to these areas helps eliminate viruses, including COVID-19.

EH&S recommends the following general guidelines:

1. Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, especially high-touch areas.
2. Use one of the cleaning agents on this list of EPA-approved disinfectants.
3. Always follow label instructions.
4. Immediately clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled and/or after a known exposure to a coughing/sneezing person.
5. If a surface or object has been soiled with blood or other bodily fluids, use gloves and other standard precautions. Remove the spill, and then clean and disinfect the surface.
6. After cleaning (and always!), practice good hand hygiene:
   - Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
   - If soap and warm water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Below is guidance for cleaning and sanitizing electronics:

1. Consult manufacturer recommendations on cleaning products appropriate for electronics. If no guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or spray containing at least 70% alcohol. Use of alcohol-based products may reduce risk of damage to sensitive machine components.
2. Whenever possible, use wipeable covers for electronics.
Follow these safety guidelines during disinfection:
1. Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Gloves should be discarded after each use. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
2. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for safe and effective use of all cleaning products, including product application. Keep in mind that some products require good ventilation and PPE during the use.
3. Wear eye protection when there is a potential for splash or splatter to the face.
4. Gowns or aprons are recommended to protect personal clothing.
5. Custodial crews should immediately report breaches in personal protective equipment (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures to their supervisor.
6. Store chemicals in labeled, closed containers. Keep them in a secure area away from children and food. Store them in a manner that prevents tipping or spilling.

Guidance on disinfection of surfaces to destroy bacteria and viruses:
1. Clean surfaces first. If surfaces are dirty to sight or touch, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
2. Follow these disinfection tips:
   - Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder-to-kill viruses. This is a list of products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims.
   - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., dilution concentration, application method and contact time, ventilation, and use of personal protective equipment).
   - The following products are effective for disinfection of hard, non-porous surfaces:
     o A 10% diluted bleach solution, an alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered disinfectants.
     o Prepare a 10% diluted bleach solution by mixing:
       ▪ Five tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water
       ▪ After application, allow 2 minutes of contact time before wiping, or air dry (without wiping)
   - For disinfection of soft, porous surfaces, such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes (not required unless directly impact by ill persons):
     a. Remove visible contamination (if present) and clean with cleaners indicated for use on soft, porous surfaces.
     b. After cleaning, porous surfaces should be laundered using the hottest appropriate water setting, and use a product with an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claim that is suitable for porous surfaces. Avoid shaking dirty laundry to minimize the possibility of dispersing the virus in the air.
Helpful resources

CDC response plans for Institutions of Higher Education
CDC recommendations for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in healthcare settings
CDC recommendations for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in households
CDC cleaning and disinfecting to slow spread of flu
King County Metro cleaning procedures in response to COVID-19