



COVID-19 PREVENTION: ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS

April 03, 2020

In alignment with public health recommendations, the University is taking measures to help prevent community spread of COVID-19, which includes undertaking enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures. The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) developed enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures for University units to follow during the COVID-19 public health situation.

1. [Enhanced cleaning and disinfection for prevention](#)
2. [Enhanced cleaning and disinfection after notification of a confirmed case of COVID-19](#)

1. ENHANCED CLEANING FOR PREVENTION

General guidance:

- a. Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, **focusing on high-touch surfaces**, 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 disinfecting with attention to these areas helps remove bacteria and viruses, including the novel coronavirus.
- b. Practice good hand hygiene after cleaning (and always!):
 - i. Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
 - ii. If soap and warm water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Safety guidelines during cleaning and disinfection:

- a. Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Gloves should be discarded after each use. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- b. Wear eye protection when there is a potential for splash or splatter to the face.
- c. Gowns or aprons are recommended to protect personal clothing.
- d. 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.



Cleaning and disinfection of surfaces:

- a. Clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled first. If surfaces are dirty to sight or touch, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- b. Clean and disinfect affected surfaces 48 hours before symptom onset after a known exposure to person with respiratory symptoms (such as coughing/sneezing).
- c. Use an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against COVID-19. Refer to the list of [products pre-approved](#) for use against emerging enveloped viral pathogens, or the list of [disinfectants](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- d. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe and effective use of all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., dilution concentration, application method and contact time, required ventilation, and use of personal protective equipment). Review the [UW Disinfectants Hazard Summary](#) for a guide to potential health hazards and the recommended protective measures for common active disinfectant agents used at the UW.
- e. 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. Whenever possible, consider using wipeable covers for electronics.
- f. The following products are effective for disinfection of hard, non-porous surfaces:
 - i. A 10% diluted bleach solution, an alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol, and/or an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against COVID-19.
 - ii. Prepare a 10% diluted bleach solution by doing the following:
 - Mix five tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water.
 - After application, allow 2 minutes of contact time before wiping, or allow to air dry (without wiping).
- g. For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes:
 - i. Remove visible contamination (if present) and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
 - ii. 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.

- iii. If laundering is not possible, use an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against COVID-19. Refer to the list of [products pre-approved](#) for use against emerging enveloped viral pathogens, or the list of [disinfectants](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- h. If a COVID-19 case is confirmed in the UW community, University units are required to follow the guidance *Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection after Notification of a Confirmed Case of COVID-19* outlined in this document.

2. ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION AFTER NOTIFICATION OF A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

This protocol is for cleaning and disinfection of areas where a person with COVID-19 spent time in University spaces. It is applied from the day symptoms developed *until seven days have passed* since the person was present in a University space.

If there is a COVID-19 case in the UW community, the following cleaning and disinfecting protocol will be followed:

- a. Buildings and/or specific rooms and areas where a COVID-19 positive person spent time will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The cleaning scope will be implemented based on the risk of potential contamination as determined by the Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) and the Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases, in coordination with the impacted department, UW Facilities, and Housing and Food Services.
- b. EH&S staff will do the following (as applicable):
 - i. Communicate in writing the scope of cleaning to UW Facilities or other department responsible for cleaning.
 - ii. Identify areas that require restricted access during and immediately following enhanced cleaning.
 - iii. Communicate with impacted department(s).
 - iv. Coordinate with building coordinators/managers.
- c. When cleaning and disinfecting rooms with increased surface area due to a large numbers of desks, tables, and other furniture, and where a spray application of disinfectant is needed, EH&S will notify the building coordinator in advance if the spraying will occur during normal work hours. Advance notice allows the building occupants to be apprised of the schedule for disinfection of the space and any areas that may require restricted access during cleaning.



- d. The cleaning crew will:
 - i. Follow the guidance *Enhanced Cleaning for Prevention* outlined in this document.
 - ii. Open windows to the outside to increase air circulation, if possible.
 - iii. If possible, wait up to 24 hours after the ill person was in the building before cleaning and disinfection to further minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
 - iv. If an outside contractor is used for cleaning and disinfection, the proposed scope of work, including the products and their respective safety data sheets (SDSs), and application methods must be reviewed by EH&S prior to work commencing.
- e. Wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE) during cleaning and disinfecting, including disposable gloves, gowns or a lab coat (to protect contamination of clothing), and safety glasses/goggles when there is a potential for splashing/spraying the disinfectant. All staff must be fully trained on donning and doffing required PPE to prevent cross contamination.

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](#)

[CDC Cleaning and Disinfection After Persons Suspected/Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility](#)

[Persistence of Coronaviruses on Inanimate Surfaces and their Inactivation with Biocidal agents](#)