

## P.H.D FUNDamentals COVID-19 Cleaning Procedure

### What you need to know

- cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people
- wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These will be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished
- using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles
- if an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), use protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron
- wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning

### Background

Experience of new coronaviruses (SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV) has been used to inform this guidance as per GOV.UK. The risk of infection depends on many factors, including:

- the type of surfaces contaminated
- the amount of virus shed from the individual
- the time the individual spent in the setting
- the time since the individual was last in the setting

The infection risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) following contamination of the environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk. However, studies of other viruses in the same family suggest that, in most circumstances, the risk is likely to be reduced significantly after 72 hours.

### Principles of cleaning after the case has left the setting or area

#### Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The minimum [PPE](#) to be worn for cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) is disposable gloves and an apron. Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present or there is visible contamination with body fluids, then the need for additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose might be necessary. The local Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team (HPT) can advise on this.

Non-healthcare workers will be trained in the correct use of a surgical mask, to protect them against other people's potentially infectious respiratory droplets when within 2 metres, and the mask use and supply of masks would need to be equivalent to that in healthcare environments.

### **Cleaning and disinfection**

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:

- objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors, stairwells and gymnastics equipment.

We will use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, following one of the options below:

- use either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine

or

- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants

We will avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cloths and mop heads used will be disposed of and be put into waste bags as outlined below.

Any items that are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be cleaned by washing will be disposed of.

### **Waste**

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues):

1. Will be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.
2. The plastic bag will then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
3. It will be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known.





Waste will be stored safely and kept away from children. The waste will not be disposed of in communal waste areas until negative test results are known or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

- if the individual tests negative, this can be put in with the normal waste
- if the individual tests positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste

If storage for at least 72 hours is not appropriate, we will arrange for collection as Category B infectious waste by your local waste collection authority if they currently or by a specialist clinical waste contractor.

