

# Interim Cleaning Recommendations for Facilities Housing Persons Under Quarantine for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Updated March 2, 2020

## Background

There is much to learn about the newly emerged [coronavirus disease 2019](#) (COVID-19). Based on what is known about early cases of COVID-19, spread from person-to-person via the respiratory route and usually happens among close contacts (within about 6 feet).

People with certain types of exposure to cases of COVID-19 may be housed and quarantined for observation until 14 days after their exposure. The purpose of the observation period is to ensure they don't develop symptoms and infect others during this time. Some people stay at home for the observation period, but others may be housed either separately or in groups in other types of facilities.

In these facilities, individuals and families are provided separate quarters with separate bathroom facilities. They are instructed that congregation and shared public spaces are to be avoided. Because the people under quarantine are not ill, the risk to cleaning staff is inherently low.

## Purpose

This guidance provides recommendation on the cleaning and disinfection of rooms of persons under quarantine, as well as associated worker protection practices according to expected job tasks. The goal is to minimize interactions between persons under quarantine and cleaning staff. These recommendations will be updated if additional information becomes available.

## General Recommendations for Housing Facilities for Persons Under Quarantine

- Employers should develop policies for worker protection and provide training to all cleaning staff on-site prior to beginning work. Training should include:
  - o An understanding of when to use personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - o What PPE is necessary and why (see below for PPE recommendations)
  - o How to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE
  - o How to properly dispose of PPE
- Employers must ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace in accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard, 29 CFR 1910.1200.

- Employers must comply with OSHA’s standards on Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030), including proper disposal of regulated waste, and PPE (29 CFR 1910.132).
- Cleaning staff should perform hand hygiene often including immediately after removing PPE by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures (e.g., contact with a quarantined individual without wearing appropriate PPE) to their supervisor.
- Employers should educate workers to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 and provide instructions on what to do if they develop symptoms until 14 days after the last day they had possible exposure to the virus.
  - Cleaning staff should immediately notify their supervisor and the local health department if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. The health department will provide guidance on what actions need to be taken.
- Cleaning staff should follow normal preventive actions while at work and home including covering their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent and water prior to disinfection.
  - A list of products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims, maintained by the American Chemistry Council Center for Biocide Chemistries (CBC), is available at: <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>.
  - Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses.
  - Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, PPE) for use.

## Cleaning Activities During the Quarantine Period

Because cleaning needs are limited during the quarantine period, CDC is recommending that cleaning staff do not clean occupied rooms in quarantine facilities. Instead, all rooms should be provisioned with personal cleaning supplies, e.g., tissues, paper towels, cleaners and disinfectants that are EPA-approved against emerging viral pathogens (see list above) for use by persons under quarantine as needed. Rooms and common areas occupied by persons under quarantine should not be cleaned by cleaning staff until all persons under quarantine have been released from quarantine and have vacated the area and no sooner than 24 hours after rooms and common areas have been vacated.

During the quarantine:

- Persons under quarantine should bag trash and place the closed bag outside their door for daily pick up.
- Similarly, persons under quarantine should bag soiled linens and place the closed bag outside their door for pick up.

- Cleaning, laundry, and trash removal staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including collection of closed bags.
  - Staff should remove gloves after cleaning a room or area occupied by persons under quarantine before moving to the next room.
  - After delivering bags to their final destination, staff should clean and disinfect any hard, cleanable surfaces where bags have been stored (such as on carts or on the floor).
  - Laundry and trash removal staff collecting the closed bags should remove their gloves promptly after bags are delivered to their destination and cleaning and disinfection has been performed.
  - Any time staff remove gloves, they should perform hand hygiene immediately by washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty and soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- If possible, for fabrics or other materials that can be laundered, use the warm water setting and dry items completely on high heat.
- If a person under quarantine has a special need for assisted cleaning (e.g., an elderly person who is unable to clean a spill such as vomiting in their quarters), public health staff will oversee the cleaning process as part of their evaluation of the individual.

## **Cleaning a Room Vacated by a Person under Quarantine with COVID-19 (Enhanced Cleaning)**

Rooms that housed a person under quarantine with COVID-19 should remain closed to further use until cleaned and disinfected by appropriately trained cleaning staff. The room should not be entered by cleaning staff for at least for 24 hours.

- Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process.
  - These gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used
  - Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk for splash.
  - Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
- Cleaning should be undertaken using products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims (<https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>). All products should be used according to label instructions.
  - Clean the surface first, and then apply the disinfectant as instructed on the disinfectant manufacturer's label. Ensure adequate contact time for effective disinfection.
  - Adhere to any safety precautions or other label recommendations as directed (e.g., allowing adequate ventilation in confined areas, proper disposal of unused product or used containers and donning appropriate PPE).

- Avoid using product application methods that cause splashing or generate aerosols.
  - Cleaning activities should be supervised and inspected periodically to ensure correct procedures are followed.
  - After cleaning and removal and disposal of gloves, staff should perform hand hygiene by washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if the hands are visibly soiled.
- Clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces in quarantine locations (e.g., counters, tabletops, doorknobs, light switches, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, remotes and bedside tables) according to instructions described for products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims.
  - For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present. Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Porous materials that will be laundered can be transported to the laundry facility in the usual manner. If possible, launder items using the warm water setting and dry items completely on high heat.
  - When cleaning is completed, collect soiled material and PPE in a sturdy, leak-proof (e.g., plastic) bag that is tied shut and not reopened. This waste can go to the regular solid waste stream (e.g., municipal trash) as it is not biohazardous or regulated medical waste.
  - If bulk material and spills containing blood or body substances are present, cleaning staff should use absorbent materials, such as towels, to remove the material. The area should then be cleaned and then disinfected with products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims used according to product label instructions.
  - No additional cleaning is needed for supply and return ventilation registers or filtration systems for the building.
  - No additional treatment of wastewater is needed before discharging to sanitary sewer.

## **Cleaning Recommendations for Quarantined Persons from Uncontrolled Sources (e.g. increased likelihood of many cases such as on cruise ships, etc.)**

Cleaning for facilities housing persons under quarantine because of exposure from an uncontrolled source should be conducted following the Enhanced Cleaning procedures and include cleaning of common areas outlined above.

### **Cleaning a Room Vacated by persons under quarantine without COVID-19**

After all persons under quarantine are released and assuming the quarantined persons are not from an uncontrolled source (see above):

- If all persons under quarantine have been released and vacated the housing area and no persons tested positive for COVID-19, the facility (e.g., rooms, common areas) should be cleaned according to standard procedures.
- No additional PPE is required beyond what is normally worn for regular housekeeping activities.

### **Cleaning of Common Areas of a Housing Facility (if used)**

If common areas are used by persons under quarantine, those areas will require cleaning and disinfection during the quarantine period.

- Common areas of a facility should be cleaned on a daily basis, and as needed.
- Regardless of known COVID-19 status of persons under quarantine, common areas should be cleaned according to Cleaning a Room Vacated by a person under quarantine with COVID-19 (Enhanced Cleaning) recommendations, since communication to cleaning staff about persons under quarantine who develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 may not be able to occur as quickly as cleaning services are required.
- No quarantined individuals should be present in a common area during cleaning. Common areas of a facility should be closed off to all persons except for cleaning staff before cleaning and disinfection activities take place.

#### **Additional Resource:**

OSHA COVID-19 Website:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>