



# **Interim Guidance for Environmental Cleaning for Non-Healthcare Settings Following Exposure to a Patient with Confirmed or Suspected 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection**

**March 9, 2020 (replaces version dated January 30)**

This guidance document contains recommendations for environmental cleaning practices in non-healthcare settings, including but not limited to childcare facilities, schools, airports and other transportation centers, and homes after exposure to patients being evaluated for, or confirmed to have, COVID-19.

## **Minimize the number of people exposed**

- Limit access** to contaminated or potentially contaminated areas until they have been thoroughly cleaned.
- If possible, designate **one person** to clean the area.

## **Wear gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**

- Wear gloves** when cleaning surfaces the patient has come in contact with, including any time an area is visibly contaminated with blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions (e.g. sweat, saliva, sputum, nasal mucus, vomit, urine, or feces).
- Wash your hands immediately** after removing gloves.

## **Clean all surfaces the patient may have come in contact with**

- Use a **diluted bleach solution** (e.g., dilute bleach with 1 part bleach and 50 parts water) or a household disinfectant with a label that says **“EPA-registered” for coronaviruses**. To make a bleach solution at home, add 4 teaspoons of bleach to 1 quart (4 cups) of water, or 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) of bleach to 1 gallon of water.
- Read labels of cleaning products and follow recommendations provided on product labels. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves or eye protection and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- Clean all touchable surfaces** the patient potentially came in contact with, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.
- Clean any surfaces that may have blood, body fluids, secretions, and/or excretions on them.
  - For hard (nonporous) surfaces such as tabletops, screens, seat arms, windows, and walls: remove any visible contamination and clean and disinfect the area with products approved by your company.
  - For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor or seat cushions: remove as much of the contaminant as possible, cover the area with an absorbent substance (e.g., paper towel), and contain the area as much as possible. Remove the absorbent substance and any remaining material, and then clean and disinfect the area with products approved by your company.
  - For launderable items such as clothes and linens, read and follow directions on labels of laundry or clothing items and detergent. In general, wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended on the label.

### **Safely dispose of waste**

- Carefully **place all waste inside a plastic bag**. Tie or tape the bag shut securely to avoid leaking. Keep the bag in a secure place until it can be safely collected for disposal.
- Dispose of all waste according to your company policy.
- For areas not contaminated with diarrhea, vomit, blood, or other body fluids, routine cleaning and disinfection should be performed.

### **Wash hands often**

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**. You can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available and if your hands are not visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Use disposable paper towels** to dry your hands. If not available, use dedicated cloth towels and replace them when they become wet.
- Wash your hands before and after any contact with potentially contaminated environmental surfaces.