



March 14, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for Cleaning Community Spaces

Cleaning regularly touched surfaces is an important way to protect against COVID-19 infection. Current evidence suggests that the virus may remain infectious for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials.

Marin County Public Health and Marin County Environmental Health Services is providing this information to guide the cleaning and disinfection of common areas in non-medical facilities in the community, such as schools, offices, daycare centers, businesses, community centers that do not house persons overnight.

Safety:

- Cleaning staff and others should wear disposable gloves for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
- Gloves and protective garments should be removed carefully inside out to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to **clean** hands after removing gloves.
- Cleaning staff and others should **clean** hands often, including immediately after removing gloves, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are 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.
- Additional key times to clean hands include:
 - Before putting on gloves.
 - After coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose.
 - Before eating and preparing food.
 - After eating, drinking, or smoking.
 - After using the restroom.
 - After contact with animals or pets.
 - After cleaning.
- Follow preventive measures while at work and home, including cleaning hands and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

- All common areas should be cleaned and disinfected daily or more frequently, focusing on frequently touched surfaces. "High touch" surfaces include handrails, elevator buttons,

counters, tabletops, doorknobs and pulls, light switches, bathroom fixtures, toilets, trash cans, phones, keyboards should be cleaned frequently.

- Surfaces should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants, diluted household bleach solutions and alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol are effective.
- 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, etc.)
- For soft porous surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
 - If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
 - Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims.
 - Steam clean carpets and other porous surfaces as needed.

Trash Disposal:

- Wear gloves when handling trash or waste.
- Ensure that trash is thrown into sturdy, leak-proof (e.g. plastic) bags that are tied shut, placed directly into trash bins and disposed of regularly.
- Handle special wastes (e.g. medical waste, hazardous waste) appropriately.
- After cleaning and throwing away waste, remove gloves and wash hands as noted previously.

Considerations:

- Find ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.
- Avoid personal contact such as handshaking and wave or bump elbows instead.
- Equip public spaces with hand sanitizers and tissues. (Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol.

Additional Information

World Health Organization (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

Marin Health and Human Services

<https://www.marinhhs.org/coronavirus>