



## Sierra County Health & Human Services

# Protocol for Cleaning and Disinfecting Sites used for Quarantining Individuals

### Cleaning and Disinfection After Members of the Public have been Quarantined in the Facility

#### Timing and location of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces

- For sites where persons were released from quarantine with **no illness**, cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (living area, sleeping area, bathrooms, and common areas), focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- For sites where persons became **sick** during quarantine, close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. **Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.** If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.

#### How to Clean and Disinfect

##### Surfaces

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
  - Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
  - 5 tablespoons (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup) bleach per gallon of water or
  - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

- 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.).  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- 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.
- Vacuum room carpet using a HEPA filter Vacuum only.
- After cleaning:
- If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
- Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims that are suitable for porous surfaces (examples at <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf> )

### **Linens, Clothing, and Other Items That Go in the Laundry**

- Do not shake dirty laundry; this minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Wash 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. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
- Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hand Hygiene:**

- **Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash. If Masks are to be used, they should be properly fitting N95 masks.**
  - 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 of splash. Follow directions for specific product being used.
  - Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully 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 and after contact with an ill person, 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.

- Follow normal preventive actions while at work and home, including cleaning hands and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

### **Additional Considerations for Employers:**

- Employers should educate staff and workers performing cleaning, laundry, and trash pick-up activities to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 and provide instructions on what to do if they develop [symptoms](#) within 14 days after their last possible exposure to the virus. At a minimum, any staff should immediately notify their supervisor and the local health department if they develop symptoms of COVID-19.
- Employers should develop policies for worker protection and provide training to all cleaning staff on site prior to providing cleaning tasks. Training should include when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and 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 1910.1200external icon](#)).
- Employers must comply with OSHA's standards on Bloodborne Pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030external icon](#)), including proper disposal of regulated waste, and PPE ([29 CFR 1910.132external icon](#)).