



# Recommendation for Environmental Cleaning for Non-Healthcare Settings

## After Exposure to Patient with Confirmed or Suspected 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection

The recommendations in this document are for environmental cleaning practices in non-healthcare settings after exposure to patients who are being tested for or who have a confirmed COVID-19 infection. This document is for home use.

### **1) Reduce the number of people exposed.**

- Limit access to areas that may be (or are) contaminated until they have been fully cleaned.
- If possible, have only one person clean the area.

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

- Wear gloves when cleaning anything the patient may have touched.
- Wash your hands as soon as you remove your gloves.

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

#### **What to use:**

- Use household cleaning spray or wipes, labeled as a disinfectant (kills 99.9% of viruses and bacteria). May be with or without bleach. Follow label instructions for disinfecting.



# Curi

- Or, use EPA-registered household disinfectants. The EPA-registered link is found in small print at the bottom of most labels. Here is a link to [EPA-registered disinfectants](#).
- Or, use a diluted bleach solution made of one-part bleach and 50 parts water.
  - To make a bleach solution, add:
    - Four teaspoons of bleach to one quart (four cups) of water or
    - Five tablespoons (1/3 cup) of bleach to one gallon of water.

## **How/where to clean:**

- Read the labels of cleaning products and follow the instructions and precautions (such as wearing gloves or eye protection and making sure you have good airflow).
- Clean all surfaces the patient might have touched. These include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, light switches, remotes, and tablets.
- Clean any surfaces that may have blood, body fluids, secretions, and/or excretions (such as sweat, saliva, phlegm, nasal mucus, vomit, urine, or feces) on them.
- For hard (nonporous) surfaces (such as tabletops, screens, seat arms, windows, and walls), remove any contamination you see.



- For soft (porous) surfaces (such as carpet or seat cushions) remove as much of the contamination as you can. Cover the area with an absorbent material (such as a paper towel). Then, remove the towel and any contaminant that remains.
- For washable items (such as clothes and linens), follow label directions. Wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended. Also, follow directions for your detergent.

#### **4) Dispose of wastes safely.**

- Carefully **place all waste inside a plastic bag**. Tie or tape the bag shut to prevent leaking. If heavily soiled, consider double bagging. Keep the bag in a secure place until it can be safely collected for disposal.

#### **5) Wash your hands often**

- **Wash your hands often and well with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** If you do not have access to soap and water and your hands are not visibly dirty, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Use paper towels** to dry your hands, if possible. If not, use a dedicated cloth towel. Replace the towel as often as you can.
- Wash your hands before and after any contact with surfaces that may be contaminated.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.