

# Covid-19 cleaning procedures



The infection risk from Covid-19 following contamination of the environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk. However, studies suggest the risk is likely to be reduced significantly after 72 hours.

## Background

Experience of new coronaviruses and the risk of infection depends on many factors, including:

- the type of surfaces contaminated
- the amount of virus shed from the individual
- the time the individual spent in the setting
- the time since the individual was last in the setting.

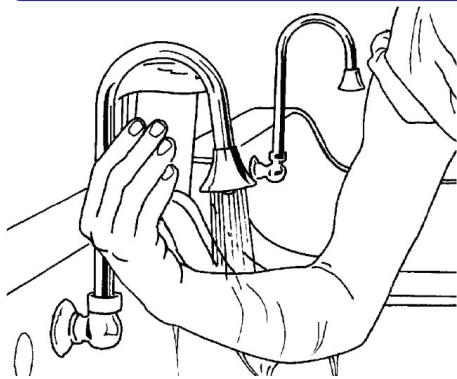
## Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed Covid-19 has attended, is disposable gloves and an apron.

If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present (for example, where unwell individuals have been), then the need for additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose might be necessary.

Non-healthcare workers should be trained in the correct use of a surgical mask, to protect them against other people's potentially infectious respiratory droplets when within two metres. The mask used would need to be equivalent to that used in healthcare environments.

## Essential steps to take each time



Before you start cleaning, wash hands and up to elbows with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. At the end of cleaning, remove and dispose of gloves and apron and thoroughly wash hands again, up to elbows.



Wear disposable gloves and aprons.



Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm, soapy water. Then disinfect with the

cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms/toilets, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles/push panels.



If an area has been heavily contaminated from a person with Covid-19, or suspected of having it, you

must use protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron.



Used cleaning and protection items should be double-bagged, stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away with regular waste.

## Cleaning surfaces



Use a detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Avoid creating splashes and spray

when cleaning.

- Do not use bleach.
- Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of properly.
- When items cannot be cleaned using detergents, or laundered, steam cleaning should be used.
- Move difficult to clean items, such as soft toys, out of the way of children.

## Handling laundry



Wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and make sure

all items are dried completely.

- Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items.
- Do not shake dirty laundry – this minimises the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry.

## Dealing with waste



Waste should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied and then into a second bag and tied. The double bagged item should be stored safely

and kept away from children.

- Store for at least 72 hours and dispose with your normal waste collection
- If storage for at least 72 hours is not appropriate, arrange for collection as a Category B infectious waste either by your local waste collection authority or by a specialist clinical waste contractor.