

GUIDELINE FOR DISINFECTION OF PLACES WITH CONFIRMED CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Due to the potential survival of the virus in the environment for several days, the premises and areas potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV-2 should be cleaned before their re-use, using products containing antimicrobial agents known to be effective against coronaviruses. Although there is lack of specific evidence for their effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2, cleaning with water and household detergents and use of common disinfectant products should be sufficient for general precautionary cleaning.

HOW TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- For disinfection, the use of 0.1% sodium hypochlorite (dilution 1:50 if household bleach at an initial concentration of 5% is used) after cleaning with a neutral detergent is suggested for decontamination purposes, although no data on the effectiveness against the SARS-CoV-2 are available. ***For surfaces that could be damaged by sodium hypochlorite, 70% concentration of ethanol is needed for decontamination after cleaning with a neutral detergent.***
- Cleaning should be performed using the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). The correct donning and doffing of PPE should be followed.

Disposable PPE should be treated as potentially infectious material and disposed in accordance with national rules. The use of disposable or dedicated cleaning equipment is recommended; non-single use PPE should be decontaminated using the available products (e.g. 0.1% sodium hypochlorite or 70% ethanol). When other chemical products are used, the manufacturer's recommendation should be followed and the products prepared and applied according to them. When using chemical products for cleaning, it is important to keep the facility ventilated (e.g. by opening the windows) in order to protect the health of cleaning personnel.

The following PPE items are suggested for use when cleaning facilities likely to be contaminated by SARS-CoV-2:

- Filtering face pieces (FFP) respirators class 2 or 3 (FFP2 or FFP3)
 - Goggles or face shield
 - Disposable long-sleeved water-resistant gown
 - Disposable gloves.
- All frequently touched areas, such as all accessible surfaces of walls and windows, the toilet bowl and bathroom surfaces, should be also carefully cleaned. All textiles (e.g. bed linens, curtains, etc.) should be washed using a hot-water cycle (90 °C) and adding laundry detergent. If a hot-water cycle cannot be used due to the characteristics of the tissues, specific chemicals should be added when washing the textiles (e.g. bleach or laundry products containing sodium hypochlorite, or decontamination products specifically developed for use on textiles).

References:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en>