

## Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols

*Updated May 20, 2020*

In alignment with public health recommendations, UAB is taking measures to prevent community spread of COVID-19, which includes undertaking enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures. The following enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures were developed for UAB units to follow during the COVID-19 public health situation.

1. [Enhanced cleaning and disinfection for prevention](#)
2. [Enhanced cleaning and disinfection after notification of a confirmed case of COVID-19](#)

### 1. ENHANCED CLEANING FOR PREVENTION

#### A. General guidance:

- i. Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, **focusing on high-touch surfaces**, such as public restrooms, doorknobs, buttons, handrails, tables, faucets, shared keyboards, desk and laboratory bench tops, fume hood and biosafety cabinet sashes, hand tools, micropipettors, outsides of shared bottles and caps, and shared pens and whiteboard markers. Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting with attention to these areas helps remove bacteria and viruses, including the novel coronavirus.
- ii. Practice good hand hygiene after cleaning (and always!):
  - Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and warm water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol.

#### B. Safety guidelines during cleaning and disinfection:

- i. Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Gloves should be discarded after each use. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- ii. Wear eye protection when there is a potential for splash or splatter to the face.
- iii. Gowns or aprons are recommended to protect personal clothing. Buttoned up laboratory coats should always be worn when working in a laboratory. Sharing of lab coats is not allowed. Lab coats should be laundered at least weekly.
- iv. Store chemicals in labeled, closed containers. Keep them in a secure area away from children and food. Store them in a manner that prevents tipping or spilling.

#### C. Cleaning and disinfection of surfaces:

- i. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- ii. Clean and disinfect surfaces as soon as possible in areas where a person with respiratory symptoms (e.g., coughing, sneezing) was present.
- iii. Use an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against the novel coronavirus. Refer to the list of [products pre-approved](#) for use against emerging enveloped viral pathogens, or the list of [disinfectants](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- iv. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe and effective use of all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., dilution concentration, application method and contact time, required ventilation, and use of personal protective equipment).
- v. Consult manufacturer recommendations on cleaning products appropriate for electronics. If no guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or spray containing at least 70% alcohol. Use of alcohol-based products may reduce risk of damage to sensitive machine components. Whenever

possible, consider using wipeable covers for electronics. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

- vi. The following products are effective for disinfection of hard, non-porous surfaces:
  - A 10% diluted bleach solution, an alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol, and/or an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against COVID-19.
  - Prepare a 10% diluted bleach solution by doing the following:
    - Mix five tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water.
    - After application, allow 2 minutes of contact time before wiping, or allow to air dry (without wiping).
- vii. 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, launder 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.
  - If laundering is not possible, use an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against COVID-19. Refer to the list of [products pre-approved](#) for use against emerging enveloped viral pathogens, or the list of [disinfectants](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- viii. If a COVID-19 case is confirmed in the UAB community, University units are required to follow the guidance *Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection after Notification of a Confirmed Case of COVID-19* outlined in this document.

## 2. ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION AFTER NOTIFICATION OF A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

This protocol is for cleaning and disinfection of areas where a person with COVID-19 spent time in UAB spaces *from 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms until seven days after*.

After notification of a person with confirmed COVID-19 on the UAB campus, the following cleaning and disinfecting protocol will be followed:

- A. Buildings and/or specific rooms and areas where a COVID-19 positive person spent time will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The cleaning scope will be implemented based on the risk of potential contamination as determined by the Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) and Occupational Medicine, in coordination with the impacted department and UAB Facilities.
- B. EH&S staff will do the following (as applicable):
  - i. Communicate in writing the scope of cleaning to UAB Facilities or other department responsible for cleaning.
  - ii. Identify areas that require restricted access during and immediately following enhanced cleaning.
  - iii. Communicate with impacted department(s).
  - iv. Coordinate with building coordinators/managers.
- C. When cleaning and disinfecting rooms with increased surface area due to large numbers of desks, tables, and other furniture, and where a spray application of disinfectant is needed, Facilities Environmental Services will notify the building coordinator in advance if the spraying will occur during normal work hours. Advance notice allows the building occupants to be apprised of the schedule for disinfection of the space and any areas that may require restricted access during cleaning.
- D. The cleaning crew will:

- i. Follow the *Enhanced Cleaning for Prevention* guidance outlined in this document.
  - ii. Open windows to the outside to increase air circulation, if possible.
  - iii. If possible, wait 24 hours after the ill person was present in a space prior to beginning cleaning and disinfection.
  - iv. If an outside contractor is used for cleaning and disinfection, the proposed scope of work, including the products and their respective safety data sheets (SDSs), and application methods must be reviewed by EH&S prior to work commencing.
- E. Wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE) during cleaning and disinfecting:
- i. Disposable gloves, gowns or a lab coat to protect contamination of clothing.
  - ii. Safety glasses/goggles when there is a potential for splashing/spraying the disinfectant.
  - iii. All staff must be fully trained on donning and doffing required PPE to prevent cross contamination. Refer to the [CDC guidance for donning and doffing PPE](#).

## RESOURCES

[OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)

[CDC response plans for Institutions of Higher Education](#)

[CDC recommendations for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in healthcare settings](#)

[CDC recommendations for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in households](#)

[CDC Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#)

[CDC guidance for donning and doffing PPE](#)

[CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Space, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)

[Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency COVID-19 Information](#)

[CDC Cleaning and Disinfection After Persons Suspected/Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility](#)

[Persistence of Coronaviruses on Inanimate Surfaces and their Inactivation with Biocidal agents](#)