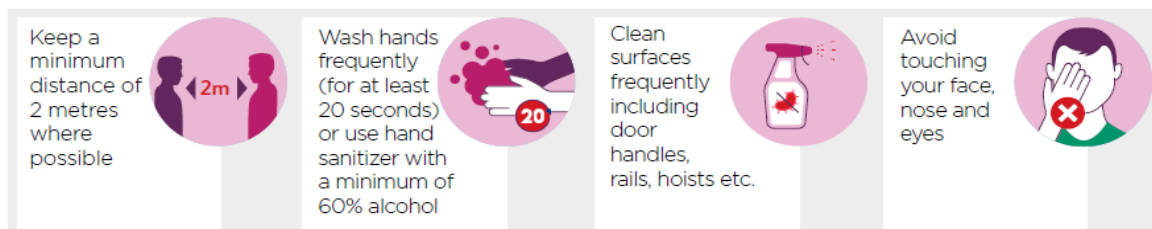


Health and Safety Toolbox Talk No: 139

Cleaning during Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic Non-Healthcare Settings



This TBT should be used in conjunction with the Risk assessment RA COVID 19.1, relevant COSHH assessments, and where applicable, the site-specific risk assessment

- **Personal Protective equipment (PPE)**
- The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area after a person with symptoms of or confirmed COVID-19, has left the setting possible is disposable gloves and an apron. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.
- If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present (for example, where someone unwell has spent the night such as in a hotel room or boarding school dormitory) or there is visible contamination with bodily fluids, then additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose must be considered e.g. the use of a mask or face shield.
- **Cleaning and disinfection**
- Public areas where a symptomatic person has passed through and spent minimal time, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids, such as corridors, can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.
- All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with, must be cleaned and disinfected, including
 - objects that are visibly contaminated with bodily fluids
 - all potentially contaminated and frequently touched areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab rails in corridors and stairwells
- Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings – think one site, one wipe, in one direction.
- Use one of the options below:
- a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av.cl.)
- or
- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants
- or

- if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses
- Avoid mixing cleaning products together as this can create toxic fumes.
- Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.
- Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.
- Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles
- If an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), providing you are trained in bodily fluid cleaning – you may need to use protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron, in accordance with your bodily fluid cleaning risk assessment,
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning
- Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.
- All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:
 - objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
 - all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells

COVID 19 update

Public-sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work where necessary.

Anyone else who cannot work from home should go to their place of work.

The risk of transmission can be substantially reduced if [COVID-secure guidelines](#) are followed closely. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

Those classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) can go to work as long as the workplace is COVID-19 secure, but should carry on working from home wherever possible.

There is no limit to group size when you are meeting or gathering for work purposes, but workplaces should be set up to meet the COVID-secure guidelines.

You should continue to:

- follow social distancing rules
- travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but aim to reduce the number of journeys you make

Information on local COVID alert levels, including what they mean, why they are being introduced and what the different levels are.

<https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>