

Decontamination and Sanitation Best Practices

Fighting infectious disease

April 16, 2020

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), much remains to be learned about the novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). From what is currently known, spread of the virus from person-to-person most often occurs between people within about 6 feet of each other. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), this type of transmission occurs through respiratory droplets which are produced by breathing, talking, sneezing and coughing (World Health Organization, 2009).

Transmission of COVID-19 to people from surfaces contaminated with viable virus particles called “fomites” has not been documented. However, the CDC advises novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours or days on a variety of surfaces. The CDC recommends cleaning visibly dirty surfaces then disinfecting them as best practices for preventing COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

The CDC’s published guidelines provide recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting rooms or areas people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 have visited, with the goal of “limiting the survival of novel coronavirus in key environments.” These guidelines are for community centers, non-healthcare facilities including but not limited to schools, colleges and universities, offices, day care centers, and other businesses. The published guidelines are not intended for healthcare facilities, households or facilities for which specific guidance already exists.

DISCLAIMER. The Company agrees and acknowledges that Lockton is providing this information, and performing its services, solely as an independent contractor, and the information provided, and services performed, are intended for informational purposes only. Lockton makes no representation or warranty, nor assumes any responsibility, that the locations, products, workplaces, operations, procedures, machinery and/or equipment of the Company are or will be safe, healthy and/or in compliance with any applicable laws, rules or regulations. The Company alone shall be responsible for the health and welfare of its employees and ensuring that its operations are in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The Client also agrees and acknowledges that the information provided, and services performed, by Lockton do not constitute legal advice. The information provided, and services performed, are being disclosed and/or undertaken with the express understanding and agreement that Lockton is not engaged in rendering legal services. Accordingly, the information provided, and services performed, are not intended to serve as legal advice, and should not be construed as such.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures

FOR SCHOOLS, DAY CARE CENTERS, OFFICES AND OTHER FACILITIES THAT DO NOT HOUSE PEOPLE OVERNIGHT, THE CDC RECOMMENDS:

- Closing off areas that ill people have visited and wait as long as practical (24 hours, if possible) before starting cleaning and disinfecting to reduce the risk of exposure to respiratory droplets.
- Outside doors and windows should be opened, if possible, to increase air circulation.
- All areas, including offices, restrooms and common areas, ill people have occupied should be cleaned. Frequently touched surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned.

FOR FACILITIES THAT HOUSE PEOPLE OVERNIGHT, THE CDC ALSO RECOMMENDS:

- Areas that ill people have occupied should be closed off and cleaning should be held off to minimize exposure to respiratory droplets (see above).
- Air circulation should be increased by opening outside doors and windows, if possible.

In all facilities, routine cleaning and disinfection should be performed following these published guidelines.

DIRTY SURFACES SHOULD BE CLEANED USING A DETERGENT OR SOAP AND WATER. FOR DISINFECTION, THE CDC RECOMMENDS:

- Diluted household bleach solutions.
- Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol.
- Household disinfectants registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Household bleach solutions may not be appropriate for disinfecting in all cases as they can cause damage to some surfaces. Businesses should follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and ventilation of the area where bleach solutions are used. Bleach products should not be used if beyond their expiration dates. Bleach-containing products should never be mixed with ammonia or other caustic cleansers.

For disinfection, 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) of bleach should be mixed per gallon of water (4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water). Bleach should be poured into the water. Persons mixing bleach solutions should wear chemical splash goggles, an impervious apron and impervious gloves.

To disinfect soft or porous surfaces, such as carpet, rugs or drapes, remove visible contamination then clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces in the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning, the items can be laundered using the warmest water in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions then dried completely.

Recommended cleaning chemicals

The EPA has established a list of products approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19. The list may be [found here](#).

Selecting a cleaning service

At a minimum, any selected cleaning services should be [certified in compliance](#) with the Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS). CIMS-certified services offer the assurance they have management systems and operations in place to deliver consistently high-quality services.

Contractors that are credentialed in decontamination may also provide more assurance they are qualified to perform the required cleaning and decontamination services.

Cleaning vendors

LOCKTON HAS DEVELOPED A LIST OF VENDORS THAT MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST CLIENTS WITH COVID-19 CLEANING AND DECONTAMINATION NEEDS¹:

Company name	Website
American Technologies, Inc.	https://atirestoration.com/
Belfor Property Restoration	https://www.belfor.com/en/us
Blue Team Restoration	http://www.blueteamrestoration.com/
BMS Cat	https://www.bmscat.com/
Clean Air	https://www.cleanair.com/
Coast 2 Coast Restoration	http://www.c2crestorations.com/
Cotton Holdings, Inc.	https://cottonholdings.com/
Crawford Contractor Connection	https://www.crawco.com/covid-19/decontamination-services#
Cummins Facility Service	https://www.cumminsfs.com/
Interstate Restoration	https://www.interstaterestoration.com/
Kustom	https://kustom.us/
Nationwide Commercial Cleaning	https://www.nationwidecommercialcleaningservices.com/coronavirus-sanitizing-and-cleaning-services/
Prestige Maintenance USA	https://www.prestigeusa.net/
ServiceMaster Restore	http://www.svmbyc2c.com/
ServPro	https://www.servpro.com/

¹ Available services may vary



LOCKTON[®]

UNCOMMONLY INDEPENDENT