

PROPER DISINFECTION OF AREAS WITH CONFIRMED/SUSPECTED CASES OF COVID-19 FOR FACILITIES/CUSTODIAL/OUTSIDE VENDORS

The following information provides guidance on environmental cleaning and disinfection for rooms and areas with exposure to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. The objective of these guidelines is to reduce the survival of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that may be present in the environment and minimize the risk of exposure to staff responsible for cleaning. The recommendations included in these guidelines have been adapted from the CDC guidelines for non-healthcare facilities. All faculty, staff and students should immediately notify Yale Facilities at 203-432-6888 of all areas that have had suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure. Provide the name of the suspected individual, locations that were visited on campus and contact information. These areas will require enhanced cleaning. Yale Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) should be notified at 203-785-3550 for tracking of incident reporting.

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces

All affected areas that might have been potentially exposed should be vacated and secured to avoid entering. A restricted access sign should be posted immediately on the door with a date and time. Before the area is cleaned and disinfected, it should be vacated for at least 24 hours. If possible, it is recommended to wait longer to minimize the risk of contact with droplets containing live virus in the environment.

- Allow fresh air to circulate in the area, outside doors and windows should be opened when possible.
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be removed aseptically and discarded after cleaning, followed by washing hands for 20 seconds with water and soap.
- Yale Facilities approved disinfectants that are [registered with the EPA](#) as effective against novel coronavirus should be used for all cleaning. Below are the processes that should be followed when cleaning specific areas on campus:
 - **Restroom Cleaning:** Facilities, custodians and housekeepers should disinfect all sinks, toilets and toilet handles, door knobs, urinals and urinal handles, paper towel and soap dispensers, floors, stall handles, changing tables and door handles.
 - **Interior and Exterior of Building:** All door handles, elevator call buttons, door push plates, desks, conference tables, chairs, light switches, water fountains, bottle fill stations and all high-touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected.
- Protexus electrostatic sprayers should be used, when applicable, to ensure the appropriate surface coverage.
- During the cleaning process, all surfaces should have the appropriate contact time with disinfectant as indicated by the manufacturer. This can be ensured by leaving the surfaces to air dry.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- All employees must wear university-approved disposable gloves (i.e. nitrile, latex, or latex-free), when performing all cleaning.
- Gloves should be changed frequently and hand hygiene should be performed after glove removal. Hand hygiene can be performed using either hand sanitizer that contains 70% alcohol or washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.

Resources

- [CDC Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education: Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Schools, Workplaces & Community Location Communities Facilities to COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Handwashing Information](#)

If you have any questions, please contact EHS at ehs@yale.edu or 203-785-3550.