

COVID-19 MITIGATION: ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS

In alignment with public health recommendations and [CDC response plans for Institutions of Higher Education](#), [Governors State University](#) is taking measures to address the community spread of COVID-19, which includes undertaking enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures. [The Emergency Response Team](#) has developed enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures for University units to follow during the COVID-19 public health situation. Visit our [website](#) to see all the latest updates.

1. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection for mitigation
2. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection after notification of a confirmed case of COVID-19

1. ENHANCED CLEANING FOR MITIGATION

A. General guidance:

Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, **focusing on high-touch surfaces**, such as public restrooms, exercise rooms, library tables, elevator buttons, handrails, tables, faucets, doorknobs, shared toys, and shared keyboards. Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting following CDC cleaning and disinfecting to slow spread of flu with attention to these areas helps remove bacteria and viruses, including the novel coronavirus.

Practice good hand hygiene after cleaning (and always!):

- i. Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- ii. If soap and warm water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% 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. Ensure adequate ventilation
- iv. Do not mix products or chemicals.
- v. 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. Clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled first. If surfaces are dirty to sight or touch, they should be cleaned using a 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 a disinfectant product from EPA List N that is effective against COVID-19. If products on EPA List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19) are not available, bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface.
- 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. For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes:
 - Clean the surface using a product containing soap, detergent, or other type of cleaner appropriate for use on these surfaces.
 - Launder items (if possible) 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 you need to disinfect, use a product from EPA List N approved for use on soft surfaces.
- vii. If a COVID-19 case is confirmed in the GSU 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 University spaces. If there has been a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in your facility within the last 24 hours, the space(s) occupied will be cleaned and disinfected. This protocol follows [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility | CDC](#)

After notification of a person with confirmed COVID-19 on GSU 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 Emergency Response Team, in coordination with the impacted department and Facilities Development and Management.

- B. Environmental Health and Safety staff will do the following (as applicable):
 - i. Communicate in writing the scope of cleaning to GSU 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.
 - v. Notify GSU Campus Community of all areas undergoing Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection.

- C. When cleaning and disinfecting rooms with increased surface area due to a large number of desks, tables, and other furniture, and where a spray application of disinfectant is needed, FDM will notify the building occupants 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. Use products from EPA List N according to the instructions on the product label.
 - v. Wear a mask and gloves while cleaning and disinfecting.
 - vi. 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. Mask
 - ii. Disposable gloves, or a lab coat to protect contamination of clothing.
 - iii. Safety glasses/goggles when there is a potential for splashing/spraying the disinfectant.

iv. All staff must be fully trained on donning and doffing required PPE to prevent cross contamination.

F. If less than 24 hours have passed since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, clean and disinfect the space.

G. If more than 3 days have passed since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, no additional cleaning (beyond regular cleaning practices) is needed.

RESOURCES

- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility | CDC](#)
- [Safety Precautions When Using Electrostatic Sprayers, Foggers, Misters, or Vaporizers for Surface Disinfection During the COVID-19 Pandemic | CDC](#)
- [CDC response plans for Institutions of Higher Education](#)
- [CDC recommendations for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in healthcare settings](#)
- [CDC cleaning and disinfecting to slow spread of flu](#)
- [Persistence of Coronaviruses on Inanimate Surfaces and their Inactivation with Biocidal agents](#)

Last reviewed: July 27, 2021