



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
6TH AIR REFUELING WING (AMC)
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

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COVID-19 Environmental Cleaning Standards for 6 ARW Rooms or Office Work Centers

This guidance provides confirmation of the cleaning and disinfection standards for rooms, offices or common areas in the work centers for those 6 ARW personnel with suspected or with confirmed COVID-19 positive results. It is aimed at limiting the survival of novel coronavirus in key environments. These guidelines will be updated if additional information becomes available.

Intended audience: These guidelines are focused on common work center areas and offices that do not house persons overnight.

Background: There is still much to learn about the virus, but the spreading of the virus from surfaces to people has NOT been documented yet. Current evidence suggests that the virus may remain infectious for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. For daily operations outside of a person suspected of having or testing positive for COVID-19, practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks) with household cleaners. Clean on a daily basis, increasing frequency if surfaces are found to be dirty during spot-checks performed throughout the day.

Note: Computer keyboards are difficult to clean due to the spaces between keys and the sensitivity of its hardware to liquids. When shared, they may contribute to indirect transmission. Locations with community use computers should provide posted signs regarding proper hand hygiene before and after using the computers to minimize disease transmission. Also, consider using keyboard covers to protect the hardware against spills and facilitate cleaning.

If person(s) suspected of having COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19:

1. It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
2. Alert cleaning staff to clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill person(s), focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces. If surfaces are dirty, clean them first using a detergent and water and then disinfect them. A list of products suitable for use against COVID-19, prepared by the American Chemistry Council's Center for Biocide Chemistries can be found here ([use this link](#)). It is not complete or exhaustive; any disinfectant, which the manufacturer states meets the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Emerging Viral Pathogens (EVP) requirement, can be used. Manufacturer's statements are most commonly found on the manufacturer's website or in letters issued by the manufacturer. When no such products are available, a dilute household bleach solution can be made from:

- a. 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach added to one gallon of water or
- b. 4 teaspoons bleach added to one quart of water
- c. 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 if they can be laundered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely. Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved EVP claims that are suitable for porous surfaces.
- d. For linens, clothing, and other items that go in the laundry, do not shake dirty laundry to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air. Wash 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. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items. Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.
- e. For trash, wear gloves and only handle trash bags by their empty upper sections. Do not hold the trash bag against your body. Tie the trash bag off before placing it into the conventional (municipal) waste.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hand hygiene for cleaning staff:

1. Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
 - a. Gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
 - b. Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
 - c. Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to clean hands after removing gloves.
2. Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
3. Wear eye protection (goggles or safety glasses) if spraying cleaning chemicals above shoulder height.

4. Cleaning staff do not need to wear respiratory protection while cleaning environmental surfaces.
5. Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures to their supervisor.
6. Cleaning staff and others should clean hands often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
7. Follow normal preventive actions while at work and home, including cleaning hands and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Precautions for cleaning staff while using disinfectants:

1. Make sure there is good ventilation during the use of the product when cleaning. Open available windows or doors to the outside.
2. Always use disinfectants according to the label instructions.
3. Use the safety equipment specified on the label.
4. Even if not required by the label wear gloves. Fresh disposable gloves should be used for cleaning. Gloves should be changed immediately after using disinfectants. Do not attempt to reuse disposable gloves. Clean the outside of reusable gloves immediately after using disinfectants. You can use your disinfectant to clean the gloves.
5. For concentrated products requiring dilution, do not use more of the product than is specified on the label. Using more product does not improve cleaning, but it may cause problems for the user and room occupants.
6. Do not use alcohol for cleaning, as it is a fire hazard.

Additional Considerations for Commanders and work center supervisors:

1. Consult with 6 MDG Public Health for questions regarding local protocols and these guidelines.

2. Educate staff and workers performing cleaning, laundry, and trash pick-up activities to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 and provide instructions on what to do if they develop symptoms within 14 days after their last possible exposure to the virus.
3. Ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace in accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard ([29 CFR 1910.1200](#))
4. Comply with OSHA's standards on Bloodborne Pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#)).

References:

“Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Interim Recommendations for US Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 ([link](#)).

“COVID-19 Minimum Environmental Cleaning Standards for Business, Schools, and SRO Settings,” San Francisco Department of Public Health, March 9, 2020 ([link](#)).

Additional Resources:

[OSHA COVID-19 Website](#)

[CDC Home Care Guidance](#)