

Cleaning, Disinfection and Waste Disposal Guidelines for Suspected COVID-19 Cases

Important:

- Once the patient has been transferred or discharged it is advised that no other patient or staff should use the room or any other potentially contaminated areas until the appropriate environmental cleaning and disinfection has been carried out.
- Covid-19 virus may survive on inanimate or hard surfaces for up to 9 days, therefore all surfaces that have been in direct contact with the patient need to be cleaned and disinfected.
- All areas that have been in direct contact where the suspected COVID-19 patient has passed through and also need to be cleaned and disinfected.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Process

This is a 2-step process - 1) detergent clean followed by 2) disinfection of surfaces with correct solution dilution of Sodium hypochlorite (bleach – 1,000 parts per million). Check manufacturer instructions.

- 1: Collect your equipment
 - Bucket of warm water and detergent
 - Bleach solution in dripper bottle (20mls/1 litre water or 10mls/500mls water)
 - Disposal cloths
 - Yellow bio-hazard bags
 - Gloves, and gown/apron, surgical mask and eye protection (PPE)
- DON PPE as per CDC instructions
- Wipe over surface with detergent and water.
- Dispose of cloths in yellow bio-hazard bag in room.
- Then disinfect area and equipment with bleach solution and allow to dry. Ensure nozzle on bleach solution bottle is directed at “squirt” not “spray” to avoid the spread of any potential pathogens.
- Remove PPE as per CDC instructions.
- Dispose of cloths and PPE in yellow bio-hazard bag and clean hands.
- Put on fresh gloves, empty out used cleaning solutions, rinse with clean water, wipe inside and outside of bucket with bleach solution and allow to dry.
- Remove gloves and remember to perform hand hygiene.

Waste Disposal

- Store all sealed waste from a suspect patient with COVID-19 in a secure area until the result is known.
- If **negative** the waste can be disposed of as per normal practice.
- For infectious waste it is good practice to have it removed by an accredited company for disposable, ensure it is appropriately labelled or identifiable.
- If you are unsure of the correct procedure for the management of waste seek advice from your Medical Officer of Health.