

Guidance for Cleaning/Disinfecting to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Updated July 23, 2020

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises enhanced cleaning and disinfection of workplaces to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Campus custodians continue operations with greater focus on common areas and more frequent disinfection of high touch surfaces. This document provides the standard procedures for addressing cleaning and disinfecting of campus spaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

When made aware of a positive case in the workplace, management shall take appropriate steps to isolate areas frequently used by the person who is sick and contact Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) immediately to discuss follow-on action.

If a person leaves work due to possible COVID symptoms (unconfirmed case), closing office or spaces is not required at that time. Contact EH&S if you have additional concerns.

Our overall cleaning approach includes a number of layered protocols, each of which supports the overall goal of protecting employee safety, health, and well-being when returning to campus. Together, they are designed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and are founded on best practices and guidance from the CDC, UW-Madison health and safety experts, and other subject matter experts.

Routine daily cleaning, with an increased focus on high-touch areas, together with the additional cleaning performed by the area occupants, should be adequate to minimize the risk of infection due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. However, out of an abundance of caution, additional cleaning may be performed in some circumstances as determined by University Health Service (UHS) and EH&S.

This document is part of a robust cleaning and disinfecting approach for the campus that includes:

1. [Daily Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
2. [Work Unit Cleaning & Disinfection](#)
3. [Classroom Cleaning & Disinfection](#)
4. [Vehicle Cleaning & Disinfection](#)
5. [Incident Cleaning in Areas Where a Known or Potentially Contagious Employee was Present](#)

The framework of this guidance is based on CDC guidance and the following principles:

- Transmission risk will substantially diminish with the removal of the ill person from the space.
- If your workplace has been unoccupied for several days, it may only need normal routine cleaning to reopen the area. This is because the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been shown to survive on surfaces for a long time.
- Incident cleaning and disinfecting process for general-funded facilities on central campus will generally be conducted by FP&M custodial staff using the campus-selected Oxivir Tb disinfectant.

Note: Custodial staff shall not clean inside of a laboratory space.

- Timing of cleaning and disinfecting: Whenever possible, re-entry will be delayed for 7 days after the COVID-19 positive person was last present. After that time, no additional cleaning beyond that performed routinely is required. Entry prior to this date will require review and authorization from EH&S.
- Determination of what needs to be cleaned and/or disinfected will be made by EH&S in conjunction with area resources.
- Cleaning and disinfecting is a shared responsibility among everyone on campus; maintaining a healthy environment requires frequent and ongoing effort throughout the workday.
- Normal routine cleaning will decrease how much of the virus remains on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure.
- Disinfection using EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 helps reduce risk. Frequent disinfection of surfaces and objects touched by multiple people is important.
- Handwashing: Hands should be washed for 20 seconds following cleaning and removal of PPE. Use existing handwashing facilities when possible. When not feasible, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be inactivated if you use the right products. The EPA has compiled a list of disinfectant products that can be used against COVID-19, including ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, and wipes. UW-Madison has used this list, consulting with expertise from campus partners, to select products that are best suited to the operations, environment, and application unique to the UW-Madison campus.

The procedures linked from this document (above) are based on CDC guidance and the advisement of EH&S.

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Resources

- [FP&M Returning to Campus Safely](#)
- [UW Smart Restart](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting: Plan, Prepare and Respond](#)
- [COVID-19 – Control and Prevention: Environmental Services Workers and Employers](#)