Cleaning and Waste Management Considerations for Residences and Businesses

This document provides guidance to people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 or any communicable illness who are able to receive care at home, and to their household members and/or caregivers, regarding the cleaning of residences and disposal of waste. And for businesses that may have had customers or employees suspected of having COVID-19 or any communicable illness.

General Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released general guidance on their website, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (see https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html), which should be reviewed closely and checked regularly. Additionally, the CDPH webpage, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (see https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx), provides general information on how to limit the spread of COVID-19:

These same guidelines should also be followed for any suspected illness such as Influenza, Norovirus etc.

- Washing hands with soap and water.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- If you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, stay away from work, school or other people. For Norovirus, symptoms include vomiting and/or diarrhea.

These are all ways to reduce the risk of infection with a number of different viruses.

Residence Decontamination and Removal of Waste from COVID-19 or other communicable illnesses


- Perform hand hygiene frequently. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-95% alcohol.
- Respiratory etiquette: Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw into a lined trash container. If no tissue is available, immediately wash your hands after coughing or sneezing into them.
- Avoid sharing personal household items, dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, wash thoroughly with soap and hot water.
- Wash laundry thoroughly: Wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items. Read and follow the directions on the labels of bedding, clothing, detergent and/or washing machines. Dry thoroughly using the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label.
- Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, fixtures, toilets, phones, etc. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a regular household cleaning spray or wipe according to the label instructions, which include precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure to have good ventilation during use of the product. See attachment for EPA approved sanitizers for COVID-19.
- When removing personal protective equipment, first remove and dispose of gloves. Then immediately clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Next, remove and dispose of facemask, and immediately clean your hands again with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Place all used gloves, facemasks and other contaminated items in a lined container before disposing of them with other household waste in lined receptacle.
• Clean your hands (with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer) immediately after handling these items. Individuals may also consult with their local health department or healthcare provider for any COVID-19 related issues.

Handling Waste/Trash

• Treat all waste as infectious waste and handle it with care.
• Use single use disposal gloves to handle any waste or trash bags.
• Seal or tie off all trash bags so that waste cannot escape easily. Double bag if there are any concerns with the durability of the bag.