



COVID-19 Resources for Environmental Services



Advancing Health in America

An Infection Prevention and Control Training Collaborative

Project Firstline is a CDC national training collaborative offering timely infection control training to frontline health care workers and the public health workforce in the fight against infectious disease threats. As a key partner in this initiative, AHA is pleased to help bring this critical training opportunity to the health care field and champion sound decision-making and positive behaviors in a time of crisis.

The Project Firstline program is a national training collaborative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in partnership with the American Hospital Association and the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), an AHA 501(c)(3) nonprofit subsidiary.

Want to learn more about Project Firstline? Contact ProjectFirstline@aha.org.



AHA is proud to partner with Project Firstline, as supported through Cooperative Agreement CDC-RFA-OT18-1802. CDC is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of these materials do not necessarily represent the policies of CDC or HHS, and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.

The Good News:

The routine cleaning and disinfection practices that you do everyday at your facility are effective against COVID-19.



Clean your hands:

Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer or wash your hands with soap and water if they are visibly dirty⁽¹⁾



Wear proper PPE:

PPE protects you. Wear the recommended PPE to protect yourself from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.⁽¹⁾



Use chemical disinfectants safely:

Always read and follow the directions on the label and protect yourself from splashes or sprays. Approved products can be found at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) List N website.⁽²⁾

We Still Always Clean:



Clockwise or Counter-Clockwise



High to Low



Clean to Dirty

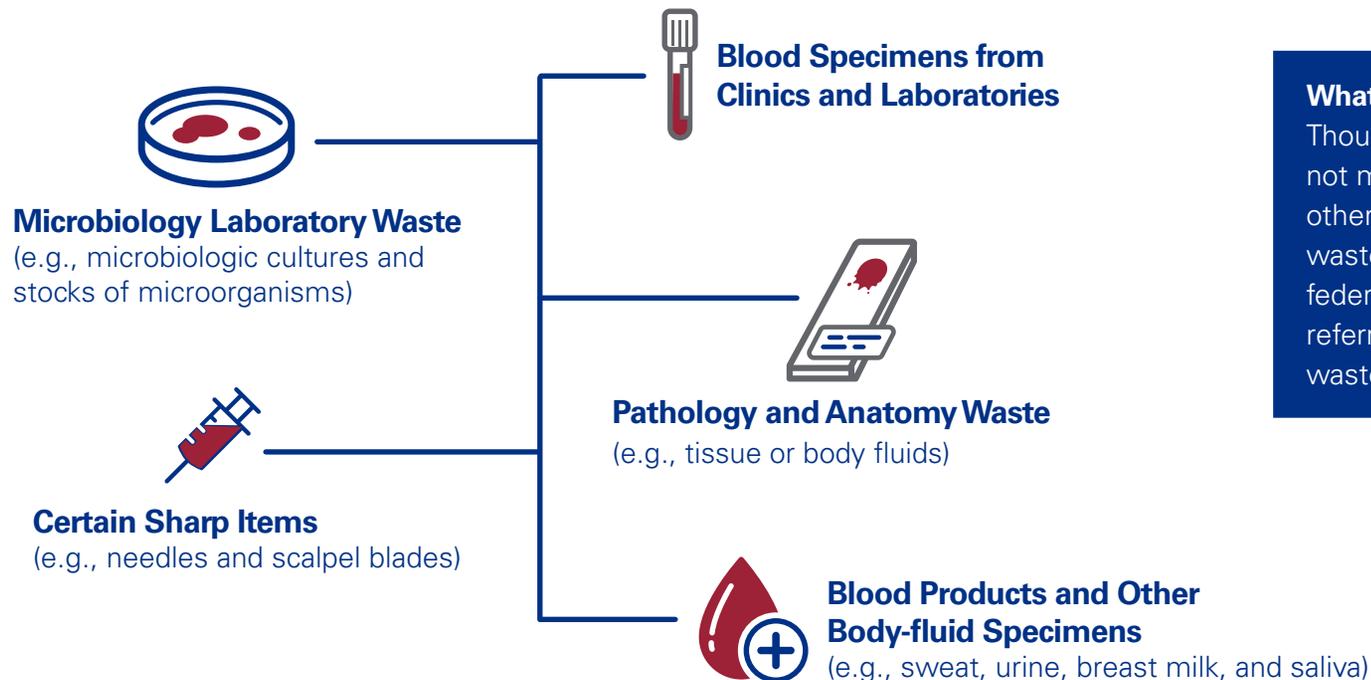


In some situations, high-touch surfaces or parts of the facility might need to be cleaned and disinfected more often, using the same routine processes.

Check with Environmental Service Leadership to know how long you need to wait before cleaning a room or area that had a patient with COVID-19. **LEARN MORE >>**⁽¹⁾

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html> 2. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Management of medical waste should be performed in accordance with routine procedures.⁽¹⁾



What is Regulated Medical Waste?

Though most waste in healthcare is not more infectious than waste in other homes and businesses, some waste requires special handling by federal, state or local laws. This is referred to as regulated medical waste. [LEARN MORE >>](#)⁽²⁾

Although anything that has blood or body fluids on it could also be infectious, most of this waste is no more infectious than waste from households and other businesses and does not need special handling.

Federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations specify the categories of medical waste that are subject to regulation and outline the requirements associated with treatment and disposal.⁽³⁾ State regulations also address the degree or amount of contamination (e.g., blood-soaked gauze) that defines the discarded item as a regulated medical waste.⁽⁴⁾ You do not need to change the way you handle medical waste because of COVID-19. **Check with your manager or supervisor to see if there are any specific state or local requirements regarding the treatment of medical waste.**

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html> 2. <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/medical-waste>
3. <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/links-hazardous-waste-programs-and-us-state-environmental-agencies> 4. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/background/medical-waste.html>

When performing discharge/transfer cleaning, **EVS** personnel should wait to enter the room of a patient with COVID-19 until sufficient time has passed to remove any virus that might still be in the air after the patient has been discharged. Check with your manager/supervisor to confirm sufficient time has passed based on your facility's HVAC system specifications.

PPE for discharge cleaning after sufficient wait time should follow PPE requirements, including any requirements based on facility status, e.g., if the patient room is semi private or private.

If you are unsure if sufficient time has passed and need to enter the room for any reason, use all recommended PPE.⁽¹⁾ **Guidance on PPE for cleaning may change over time, so it's important to check regularly with EVS leadership for updated requirements.**

Recommended PPE for discharge clean after sufficient wait time



Goggles or Face Shield

*If splashes or sprays during cleaning and disinfection are anticipated, or if eye protection is otherwise required based on the selected cleaning products



Facemask

*Current guidance recommends a facemask regardless of whether splashes or sprays are expected



Gown



Gloves

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>



PROJECT
FIRSTLINE

CDC'S National Training Collaborative
for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control