

JANITORS AND CUSTODIAL WORKERS

Coronavirus Disease 2019
(COVID-19)

WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus that started spreading in the Hubei Province of China in late 2019. The Metro Public Health Department is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Tennessee Department of Health to inform the public of the best ways to fight and prevent the illness.

WHAT ARE THESE GUIDELINES FOR?

These guidelines are designed to help reduce the risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 for janitors and custodial workers. These guidelines also demonstrate what employees should do to clean and disinfect areas where a suspected COVID-19 case has been present.

**Additional information
on COVID-19 can be
found at
[Coronavirus.Nashville.gov](https://www.coronavirus.nashville.gov).**

PROTECTION FROM COVID-19 INFECTION

Cleaning staff should wear protective equipment

- Disposable gloves and gowns should be worn at all times during cleaning and disinfection process.
- Additional personal protective equipment should be worn if there is risk of splash.
- Staff should report any tears or breaches in gloves or other protective equipment to supervisor immediately.
- Gloves and gowns should be carefully removed and disposed of after cleaning infected area.
- Hands should be thoroughly washed after protective equipment is removed.

Preventative measures should continue to be taken

- Staff should continue to wash hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home when sick, and avoid touching the face.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING AREAS AFTER COVID-19 CASE

Close off areas where infection was present for as long as possible before cleaning

- Open outside doors and windows to increase circulation before cleaning.
- If possible, wait 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the infected person, focusing on frequently touched surfaces.

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces

- Use detergent or soap and water before disinfection.
- For disinfection, use diluted bleach solution, alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol, or household disinfectant on EPA-approved list.
- For soft surfaces, remove visible contamination if possible, and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for those surfaces.

Cleaning and disinfecting linens and clothing

- Do not shake dirty laundry to help contain possibly respiratory droplets.
- If possible, launder items in the warmest appropriate water setting and dry completely.
- Clean and disinfect hampers and carts that transported laundry



Metro Public Health Dept

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Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health