

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID 19)

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING FACT SHEET

### “Cleaning”

Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt and impurities of surfaces.

Cleaning *does not* kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers the risk of spreading the infection.

### “Disinfecting”

Disinfecting refers to the using of chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or removes germs, but by killing the germs *after* cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

## HOW TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- Wear disposable gloves when you are cleaning and disinfecting. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. Dilute by mixing 5 tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water, or 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.
- For carpeted floors, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
- After cleaning, launder items in accordance to the manufacturer, using the warmest possible water temperature.

## How long can viruses remain on surfaces?

Current evidence suggests that a novel coronavirus may remain on surfaces for hours to days.

Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.

## KNOW THE FACTS AND KEEP INFORMED:

CDC's COVID-19 Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Website: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

NJ COVID-19 Information Public Call Center: 1-800-222-1222.



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