

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION FOR COVID-19

July 2020 – Last Updated: July 20, 2020

Introduction

Proper cleaning and disinfection are important to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As part of the re-opening process required by the State of Connecticut, cleaning and disinfection protocols must be in place. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety has been working closely with Facilities Operations and Supply Chain Management to identify appropriate products for use in our facilities by faculty, staff and students.

As required by the State of Connecticut, offices must also have cleaning plans to address these protocols. These can be checklists that identify what needs to be cleaned, the frequency and types of products to use.

Enhanced cleaning/Facilities Operations

UConn Facilities Operations will continue to utilize general cleaning methods and disinfection of high-touch points in bathrooms and other common areas, at least daily as directed by the State of Connecticut and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or more frequently as necessary. This will include all bathrooms, lecture halls, hallways, and other commonly shared spaces. Products used for disinfection must meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. There is a list of registered disinfectants on EPA's website.

Additionally, as part of the re-opening effort, Facilities Operations will be providing disinfectants for departments to use for common high-tough surfaces and shared office equipment that need to be disinfected after each use. This will include having suitable materials available for use in classrooms and in all bathrooms for disinfection by users between uses.

Enhanced cleaning/office/shared equipment

As required by the State of Connecticut, offices must also have cleaning plans to address shared equipment and high touch surfaces within work areas. These plans can be checklists that identify what needs to be cleaned, the frequency and types of products to use.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

General guidance – so what types of shared equipment will need to be disinfected between each use? When developing cleaning plans, consider commonly used items everyday such as, but not limited to, printers, phones, keyboards, tables, keys, vehicles, tools, doorknobs, and bathroom surfaces in between uses and more thorough cleaning by Facilities. While developing plans, try to eliminate non-essential spaces or equipment. For example, a shared coffee pot or communal dishware in breakrooms must not be used. Similarly, reconsider work practices so that shared phones and computer stations are not used, if at all possible.

Some specialty equipment unique to your department may also need to be disinfected routinely. Examples include cameras, 3D printers, electronic equipment, etc. Contact the manufacturer of the equipment to determine effective disinfecting materials that are safe for the equipment. Some companies recommend 70% alcohol wipes for cleaning computer and electronic equipment. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Alternatively, think of other ways to protect equipment, such as covering with cleanable covers or plastic. And while Facilities Operations is providing disinfectants for commonly shared areas from a central fund, specialty cleaning materials (like disinfectants for electronics) are the responsibility of the affected department.

If laundering items, use the warmest temperature setting as recommended for the fabric and dry items completely.

Safety

Cleaners and disinfectants have inherent hazards such as being irritants or sensitizers. EHS, Facilities Operations and Supply Chain Management have worked to provide the safest products possible that are still effective. However, we need to remember that they are not completely free from hazards. Please see [EHS's fact sheet on Cleaning and Disinfectant Safety](#) to understand their hazards and how to protect yourself.

Due to unprecedented demand and shortages in the supply chain, the disinfectants that will be supplied to you may change over time. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for use as well as any guidance supplied by Facilities Operations or EHS.

If you bring cleaners and disinfectants from home or order supplies on your own, be sure to understand the hazards of the products you are bringing in. Many disinfectants can be severely irritating to eyes, trigger asthma, and be sensitizers. There may be additional personal protective equipment or increased ventilation needs for use of other products. And the products may react with the products already in use. Contact EHS if you have questions concerning these products.

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And most important...make sure to wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds using soap and running water. Hand washing is the best prevention strategy for indirect virus exposure through contact.

If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Facilities Operations will be providing sanitizer stations at major entrances to buildings, classrooms and dining facilities.

What will happen if there is a confirmed case?

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, where a person was present in a University space and spent a prolonged period of time, Facilities Operations will utilize specialized service cleaning contractors to conduct a thorough cleaning/disinfection protocol. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis between Facilities Operations, EHS, Public Safety and other affected entities and will be communicated and coordinated with the impacted department and building managers.

RESOURCES

- [Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Information Sheet](#)
- [Re-open Sector Rules for Offices](#)
- [Sector Rules and Certification for Re-opening Connecticut](#)
- [CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)