

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION FOR COVID-19

July 2020 – Last Updated: July 29, 2021

Introduction

Proper cleaning and disinfection are important to reduce the spread of many diseases. While it is possible to be infected with COVID-19 through contact with contaminated surfaces or objects, the risk of infection from touching a surface is low. Hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds using soap and running water or use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is the best strategy to prevent infection from surfaces or objects.

General Guidance

Daily cleaning of high touch surfaces with a product containing a soap or detergent should be sufficient to reduce the virus on surfaces and help maintain a healthy environment. When cleaning, consider items commonly used every day such as, counters, printers, phones, keyboards, tables, tools, and door handles. Cleanable or plastic covers may make routine cleaning of electronics and touch screens easier.

If you choose to use a disinfectant instead of or in addition to a cleaner, it is important to follow the manufacturer's directions for use.

Facilities Cleaning and Disinfection Measures for Fall 2021

Disinfection - Facilities will provide once daily regular cleaning schedules on Monday through Friday which will include disinfection of high-touch areas in common spaces.

Hand Sanitizer - Hand sanitizer stations will be located in main entrance areas, typically one per building.

Disinfectant Sprays and Wipes - Disinfectant sprays and wipes will no longer be regularly available in campus buildings, but the University still has disinfectant solution in gallon containers in stock that will be made available for pickup upon request at a later date. Check <https://warehouse.uconn.edu/> for availability.

Use Cleaners Safely

Please remember that most cleaners and disinfectants have inherent hazards and should be used safely. If you purchase products, be sure to understand their hazards prior to ordering them. Many disinfectants, for example, can be severely irritating to eyes, trigger asthma, and be sensitizers. The products may react with other cleaners or disinfectant already in use or may require additional personal protective equipment or increased ventilation. It is vital to read the safety data sheet provided by the manufacturer to identify the hazards of the products, any chemical incompatibilities, and any personal protective equipment required for safe use.

Please see [EHS's fact sheet on Cleaning and Disinfectant Safety](#) to understand their hazards and how to protect yourself.

Contact EHS if you have questions concerning the use of cleaners or disinfectants.