

COVID-19 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION GUIDELINES FOR LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH SPACES

OVERVIEW: This guidance applies to laboratories and research spaces to provide approved COVID-19 disinfection methods for researchers. These guidelines will be effective for many situations, including:

1. Routine COVID-19 disinfection of high-touch work surfaces
2. Following notification of contact tracing linked to the research space
3. Following symptomatic individuals in the lab

To avoid disruption to research or damage to sensitive equipment, REM and Building Services will not disinfect your lab. Building Services will continue to clean and disinfect public and common areas, such as hallways and restrooms, with their [enhanced disinfection practices](#). Additional information about Building Services' cleaning schedule is available [online](#).

COVID 19 POSITIVE LAB MEMBER OR SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUAL PROCEDURE:

If a COVID-19 positive or symptomatic individual has been in the research space for a significant amount of time within the past 7 days, the following process should be followed, led by the research space PI or Point of Contact:

- Close off areas used by that individual.
- Inform lab members and users of the inaccessible areas within the research space
- Post "Do Not Enter" signage on the impacted area(s) (see template on last page)
- The research space does not need to cease operations if impacted area(s) can be closed off.
- Open outside doors and windows if possible, to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Once the area has been appropriately disinfected (see guidance on next page), it can be opened for use and "Do Not Enter" signage can be removed.
 - Workers without close contact with the person who is sick may return to work immediately after disinfection.
 - Workers with close contact may return to work and should monitor for [symptoms](#) (fever, cough, shortness of breath etc.)

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION

According to the CDC and what is currently known about the novel coronavirus and similar coronaviruses that cause SARS and MERS, spread happens most frequently during person-to-person close contact (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Transmission of COVID-19 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. However, current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Therefore, cleaning (using soap and water) of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection (using a REM or [EPA-Approved Disinfectant](#)) is a good practice for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings.

Prepared by Eric Butt August 17, 2020

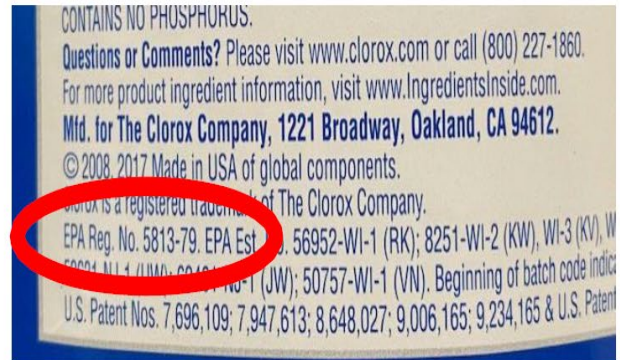
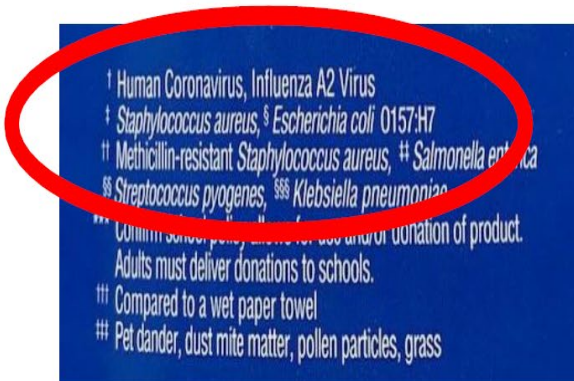
COVID-19 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION GUIDELINES FOR LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH SPACES:

ESTABLISH ROUTINE CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PROCEDURES: Frequently clean and disinfect your lab, paying close attention to high touch surfaces and equipment. Disinfect shared equipment before and after switching users.

- Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.

USE REM or EPA-APPROVED DISINFECTANTS: Use a disinfectant that is [certified by the EPA](#) to be effective against the COVID-19 coronavirus. There are two ways to tell this.

- Verify that the disinfectant is on the EPA's List N registry of disinfectants. Disinfectants are listed by both name and by EPA ID number. Your product may not be listed by name, but if the EPA number matches what is on the list, then this is a good disinfectant to use.
- The fine print of the label will list Coronavirus among the organisms for which it is approved.



COMMON LABORATORY DISINFECTANTS APPROVED BY REM FOR COVID-19:

- Ready to use, Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution available from [Procurement Services](#)
- 10% bleach in water is an approved disinfectant, though it may stain some fabrics and surfaces—be sure to label secondary containers of diluted disinfectants
- 70% alcohol or ethanol, is a good choice for keyboards, microscopes and other sensitive equipment. Check with the equipment manufacturer to verify appropriate chemicals to use—be sure to label secondary containers of diluted disinfectants
- NOTE that not all products with the name “Lysol” or “Clorox” are necessarily effective against Coronavirus.

DO NOT MIX cleaning chemicals together, especially with bleach!

ALWAYS FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

- If your bottle does not have the instructions on the label, look them up online.
- Building Services can also provide assistance with how to use products. You may talk to your Building Services Supervisor or call (765) 494-7107.
- See [EPA's 6 steps for safe and effective disinfectant use](#)

PAY ATTENTION TO DISINFECTANT CONTACT TIME: DO NOT ASSUME that the disinfectant works on contact. The overwhelming majority of disinfectants need time to work, so simply spraying and immediately wiping is insufficient. This is also true of bleach and ethanol.

For most disinfectants;

- For sprays, spray the surface until visibly damp, wait 5-10 minutes before wiping.
- For wipes, the surface should be visibly wet after you wipe it, and the disinfectant left to evaporate from the surface.

WEAR APPROPRIATE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: You may already be wearing appropriate PPE based on your laboratory work, but if not, please wear the following PPE while disinfecting your lab space.

- face mask
- splash goggles or safety glasses
- disposable nitrile gloves
- (optional in most cases) A lab coat can also be helpful, especially if you are spraying bleach to protect your clothing

Reference the disinfectant's Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for information on PPE, the hazards of the disinfectant, and other information.

OBTAINING COVID-19 ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES: including disinfectants and PPE please follow the guidance found on the [Procurement Services website](#).

USE CARE WITH DELICATE EQUIPMENT: Certain equipment may be damaged by spraying (computer keyboards and mice, key-style equipment touchpads, on/off switches, power tools, etc.) and by harsher disinfectants such as bleach. If you have approved quaternary-ammonium disinfectant or 70% ethanol wipes, use them for these more delicate tasks.

If you do not have disinfectant wipes, these items can be disinfected by soaking a dry wipe or clean soft cloth in the alcohol or disinfectant until it is damp, not dripping, and then using it to wipe the keyboard/switch/etc., being careful to avoid getting liquid into any openings. The surface should be visibly wet after you wipe it, and the disinfectant should be left to evaporate from the surface.

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN AND AFTER REMOVING PPE: Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

DO NOT ENTER

This Space is Closed Until: _____

Please contact the PI or COVIDSOP@purdue.edu with any questions