

# REOPENING

## Cleaning and Disinfecting of Guest Rooms and Common Areas Used or Occupied by a Guest Suspected or Known to Have Coronavirus (COVID-19)



This guidance provides recommendations on the cleaning and disinfection of rooms or areas occupied by suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. It is aimed at limiting the survival of the virus that causes COVID-19 in key environments. Please note that facilities may alternatively opt to close off affected areas/rooms for a period of not less than seven days. Once that time has elapsed, it would not be necessary to deep clean/disinfect to these standards, but the high touch areas should be cleaned and disinfected as described in "[Enhanced Guest Room Cleaning](#)." These recommendations will be updated as additional information becomes available.

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### Background

Based on what is currently known about the spread of COVID-19, it happens most frequently among close contacts (within about 6 feet). This type of transmission occurs via respiratory droplets. Likely transmission of COVID-19 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has also been documented. Current evidence suggests that COVID-19 may remain viable for several days on a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for the prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings.

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### Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines After Persons Suspected/Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Occupied a Guest Room

It is recommended to **close off areas used by suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection** to minimize the potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. If possible, **open outside windows to increase air circulation in the area** and wait up to 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting.

- Once the suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case has checked out, treat the room as a "hot room" and deep clean it to ensure that any contamination has been removed. Consideration should be given to having a specially trained team available for the cleaning of rooms with known ill guests.
- Treat all areas of rooms with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases as if they are contaminated with a highly infectious organism.
- Staff entering the room should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including a disposable mask, gloves, eye shield, disposable shoe covers, and a plastic disposable apron.
- Emetic or fecal accidents should be reported and cleaned as per the facility's Biohazard Response Plan.
- Discard all disposable paper products (e.g., tissues, toilet paper, cups, Keurig Cups, coffee filters).
- Remove all towels, linens, pillows, bedspreads, and blankets. Contaminated linen and other fabric materials should be placed carefully into separate laundry bags. They should be washed in a hot wash and completely dried. If an outside laundry is used, they should be advised that the laundry is potentially infectious.
- The disinfectant(s) used in the rooms needs to be registered by the EPA and on the [EPA's List N](#).

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- Clean and disinfect high-touch areas such as taps, faucets, door and drawer handles, door latches, toilet or bath rails, telephones, rails on balconies, light and lamp switches, thermostats, remote controls, curtain pulls and wands, covers on guest information books, alarm clocks, hair dryers, irons, and pens.
- Carpets contaminated with vomit or diarrhea should be cleaned in a three-step process, similar to norovirus prevention. First, carpets must be cleaned with carpet detergent and hot water. Second, carpets must be disinfected by applying an appropriate disinfectant. Finally, carpets should be steam cleaned (158°F for 5 minutes or 212°F for 1 minute will inactivate the virus).
- Cleaning carpets without visible contamination should be performed using an EPA-registered disinfectant intended for porous surfaces and effective against the virus that causes COVID-19 ([List N](#)).
- Soft furnishings should be cleaned and disinfected with an appropriate cleaner and disinfectant.

Note: A sample response plan can be found in the Southern Nevada Health District regulations entitled "[Regulations Governing the Sanitation and Safety of Public Accommodation Facilities 2006 Appendix G: Example Guest Room Clean-up Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\)](#)."

**Public Areas visited by a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case should be cleaned using the steps listed in the CDC guidance "[Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)."**