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.

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 900 Morristown, NJ 07963
(973) 631-5485
www.health.morriscountynj.gov

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