Cleaning and Disinfecting of Work Areas

Risk Management
Cleaning and Disinfecting

When people touch a surface or object contaminated with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and then touch their own eyes, noses, or mouths, they may expose themselves to the virus.
Cleaning and Disinfecting

With this in mind employees will be asked to clean common areas during the work day as facilities staff will not be able to clean and disinfect common touch areas with the necessary frequency.
Cleaning and Disinfecting

Each department will receive materials (spray bottle(s) filled with approved disinfectant, wiping cloths and gloves) to clean common spaces (such as copy machines, break rooms, kitchenette areas, conference rooms, staff workrooms and other common areas).
Cleaning and Disinfecting

• **Cleaning** with soap and water removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading infection.

• **Disinfecting** kills germs on surfaces. By killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
Cleaning

• Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.

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

• Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
  o More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use.
  o Surfaces and objects in public places, frequented by customers/clients should be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

• High touch surfaces include:
  o Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
Disinfecting

• Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
• Many products recommend:
  – Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label).
  – Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
Disinfecting

Follow manufacturer’s instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
Disinfecting

CDC recommends the use of an EPA-registered household disinfectant

EPA Website to search for registered disinfectants

https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2
Soft Surfaces

For soft surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes

• Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.

• Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
  – Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.

  OR

• Disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant.
Laundry

For clothing, towels, linens and other items

• Launder items according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
  – Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.

• Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.

• Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people’s items.

• Do not shake dirty laundry.

• Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces.

• Remove gloves, and wash hands right away.
Electronics

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, phones, remote controls, etc.

- Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer’s instruction for cleaning and disinfecting.
- If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surface thoroughly.
Consult the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) of the cleaning and disinfecting products to be used to note hazards and what PPE is appropriate for the task.
Additional information can be found at the link below.

Guidance for cleaning and disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes:

CDC Recommended Guidelines

• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you don’t have a tissue handy, cough or sneeze into your upper arm/elbow

• Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
  • If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used.

• Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

• Maintain at least a 6 ft. distance from your co-workers

• Stay home when you are sick
Questions?

Email: risk_mgmt@linncounty.org

Call: 319-892-5200