

COVID-19 Environmental Cleaning, Disinfecting and Ventilation for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW)

Refers to routine cleaning of frequently used surfaces and objects to help to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The virus that causes COVID-19 has the potential to survive in the environment for up to several days, particularly on frequently touched surfaces. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting can kill the virus, making it no longer possible to infect people.

Please consider the following recommendations for temporary foreign workers and bunkhouses:

- **Cleaning the bunkhouse:** Frequently touched areas such as toilets, hand sink faucets, bedside tables, light switches and door handles should be first cleaned (to physically remove dirt) and then disinfected daily with regular household cleaning products or a diluted bleach solution (0.5% sodium hypochlorite).
- **Cleaning shared spaces:** Cleaning of high traffic spaces (e.g. living room, kitchens and washrooms) should follow regular cleaning and disinfecting practices, both in terms of products used and surfaces targeted, as it is not likely practical/sustainable to increase the frequency of cleaning.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs and rails should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day.
- Workspaces are encouraged to clean highly touched surfaces (e.g. phones, washrooms, tables, staff rooms/lunch rooms) frequently and to facilitate increased hand hygiene. It is also recommended that items that cannot be easily cleaned (e.g. newspapers, magazines) be removed.
- **Personal Objects:** If they can withstand the use of liquids for disinfection, frequently touched electronics such as phones, computers and other devices may be disinfected with 70% alcohol (e.g. alcohol prep wipes). Avoid sharing these devices with others, where possible. If sharing is necessary, disinfect immediately after use.
- Avoid sharing personnel protective equipment (e.g. Respirator masks)
- **Increasing ventilation:** (e.g. opening windows when weather permits) may help reduce transmission, though evidence is limited as to its effectiveness.

List of Needed Household Cleaning and Disinfecting Supplies

- Liquid hand soap or detergent
- Supply of clean, warm water
- Disposable gloves (gloves should be discarded after each cleaning)
- Paper towels or clean cloths
- Household disinfectant such as:
 - Pre-mixed, store-bought spray solutions
 - Disinfectant wipes (Clorox, Lysol, etc.)
 - Diluted household bleach solution

Regardless of type of disinfectant used, ALWAYS read and follow manufacturer's instructions for safe use

- Spray bottles
- Clean bucket or pail
- Laundry detergent
- Trash bags
- Wet mop

Use damp cleaning methods such as damp clean cloths, and/or a wet mop. Do not dust or sweep which can distribute virus droplets into the air.

adapted from HNHU, April 2020