

# Cleaning and Disinfecting in Healthcare Environments



**EVS** – By providing cleaning and disinfecting services, Environmental Services (EVS) workers are vital to the protection of patients, healthcare workers, and visitors.

## WHEN CLEANING AND DISINFECTING A PATIENT ROOM WITH A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19, FOLLOW THESE BEST PRACTICES:



### Wait period

Once a patient has been discharged, EVS personnel should refrain from entering the vacated room until sufficient time has elapsed for enough air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.<sup>1</sup>



### Floors

Use different microfiber cloths and mops when cleaning and disinfecting the floors within a patient's room and restroom. For soft or porous surfaces like carpet, rugs, and drapes, clean and sanitize with approved chemicals.



### PPE

Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) before entering the room and remove the PPE carefully upon completion of cleaning and disinfecting. Learn more about PPE by reviewing ISSA Tip Sheet 1.<sup>2</sup>



### Surfaces

Prior to disinfecting surfaces, clean by using a detergent or soap and water.

### High-touch surfaces to disinfect

Bedside rails, bedside dresser, over-bed tables, supply carts, door handles, light switches, telephones, keyboards, intravenous pump monitors.



### Carts

Keep carts stocked with disposable gloves, microfiber mops and cloths, and cleaning and disinfecting solutions.



### Laundry

Before handling contaminated laundry, staff must don appropriate PPE. Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions and use the hottest water and drying temperature possible. For off-site laundering, place all soiled laundry into bags or designated bins for pick-up.

### Buckets

Change the disinfecting solution in mop buckets after each patient room.

*Use similar care and caution to clean and disinfect other areas within a healthcare setting, including hallways, waiting rooms, and offices.*

## IDENTIFYING THE RIGHT DISINFECTING SOLUTION IS CRITICAL:

**Use a disinfectant that has been approved by your country's regulatory agency to be effective against inactivating SARS-CoV-2.<sup>3</sup>**



**U.S.** – Visit the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) N List for approved disinfectants.<sup>4</sup>

**Europe** – Visit the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) guidance regarding biocidal products.<sup>5</sup>

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection efforts, including concentration, dilution ratio, application method, and contact time.

**REMEMBER: ALWAYS WASH HANDS FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS WITH SOAP AND WATER AND AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE, MOUTH, AND EYES.**

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://bit.ly/3ebubyQ>

<sup>2</sup> ISSA Tip Sheet 1: <https://bit.ly/36pdf4Z>

<sup>3</sup> ISSA Tip Sheet 3: <https://bit.ly/3gcowKA>

<sup>4</sup> EPA: <https://bit.ly/2A2GoXC>

<sup>5</sup> ECDC: <https://bit.ly/3bTXxA4>

