

## **COVID-19 Deep Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance for Pennon, SWW, Viridor or PWS sites**

**Dated: 29 January 2021**

This guidance is informed by the Public Health England (PHE) publication 'COVID-19: decontamination in non-healthcare settings' and can be applied to all Pennon workplace settings where a possible or confirmed COVID-19 case has spent time while symptomatic. For the purposes of this guidance, a possible case of COVID-19 is someone with COVID-19 symptoms, and a confirmed case is someone known to have a positive laboratory test for COVID-19.

The guidance describes the cleaning required, the appropriate disposal of materials, the disinfection of equipment and hard surfaces, and the personal protective equipment (PPE) that should be worn.

The infection risk from a COVID-19 contaminated environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk from the virus, however, studies suggest that, in non-healthcare settings, the risk of residual infectious virus is likely to be significantly reduced after 48 hours. Please note it is not possible to become infected with COVID-19 from touching a surface that has been contaminated – infection will only occur if the individual touches their face or mouth without washing their hands.

### **Principles of Deep Cleaning and Disinfection after the case has left the workplace**

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The minimum PPE required to be worn for deep cleaning and disinfection of an area where a possible or confirmed case has been includes; disposable gloves and an apron/coverall. Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed and disposed of as waste as outlined below.

If a dynamic risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of contamination may be present or there is visible contamination with body fluids, then the need for additional PPE such as a surgical facemask and full-face visor should be considered. The local Health Protection Team can advise on this. Typically this would be the case in situations such as a hotel room and therefore is unlikely to be applicable to a Pennon workplace.

Most other settings where the person has spent shorter periods of time (such as an office environment or meeting room) are likely to have lower levels of contamination and therefore the risk of onward transmission of infection will be lower.

#### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time in (such as corridors) but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned as directed by any existing workplace risk assessment or manufacturer's instructions on the safe use of their cleaning products.

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:

- objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as bathrooms, door handles, chair arms, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells

Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean and disinfect all hard surfaces or floor or chairs or door handles and sanitary fittings in the room, following one of the options below:

- use either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million available chlorine
- or
- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants
- or
- if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation, this should be checked and ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses

Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into the waste bags as outlined below.

If any items are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be appropriately cleaned, consider discarding. Gain permission to do this from the owner.

If an area can be kept closed and secure for 72 hours, wait until this time for cleaning, as the amount of virus contamination will have decreased significantly. The area can then be cleaned as directed by any existing workplace risk assessment or manufacturer's instructions on the safe use of their cleaning products.

### **Sanitising Using a Fogging Machine (Devon & Cornwall)**

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, fog, mist, vapour treatments may be suitable options to help control the spread of the virus, by cleaning and disinfecting a larger space or room. Any use of these treatments for these purposes should be risk assessed by a competent person.

Rooms treated by disinfectants applied as fog, mist or vapour should be empty and sealed off to avoid risk of human exposure to the potentially harmful treatments. Disinfectants may reach harmful levels during delivery if people enter an area undergoing treatment. Fogging presents a particular risk to the respiratory system as it produces small droplets. These can remain suspended in air for 45-60 minutes or longer, depending upon the droplet size and ventilation. An inert residue can be found after fogging which will be removed as far as possible by the contractor. soft furnishings may act as a 'sink' for the airborne chemicals and emit them for a period of time after treatment (remove items such as sofas before treatment).

Rooms that are difficult to seal may not be suitable for delivering airborne chemicals.

Potential use of disinfectants applied as fog include the following scenarios, where a suspected or confirmed case has been identified in an enclosed sealable area:

- More than two staff affected
- Movements of staff uncertain
- Little or no touch point cleaning undertaken
- Where particulates have been sprayed into the atmosphere through coughing or sneezing

For further Updates: [https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/disinfecting-premises-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm?utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=coronavirus&utm\\_term=disinfecting-headline&utm\\_content=digest-28-jan-21](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/disinfecting-premises-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=disinfecting-headline&utm_content=digest-28-jan-21)

Contact: The FM Services on 01392 446688 or FMServiceDesk@southwestwater.co.uk for further information.

Response times: During normal office hours on site within 4 hours of receiving a call. After 2pm, on site either that evening (if access is available), or first thing the following day.

## **Laundry**

If there are items that are heavily soiled with body fluids should be disposed of. Gain the permission of the owner to do this.

Remove any personal clothing, PPE and any other laundry items and place in a bag for transportation to the point of laundering. Do not shake items or avoid all necessary agitation.

Store the used linen put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known.

If the individual has a test result is negative, usual laundering processes can be followed.

If the individual does have a test result is positive:

- wash items on the hottest temperature setting the fabric will tolerate
- gloves and apron should be used when loading laundry into a machine. Laundry bag to be disposed of as per waste management guidance outlined below.

Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with your usual products, in line with the cleaning guidance above.

## **Waste**

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths, tissues) should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied. It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage for 72 hours. Waste should NOT be left unsupervised awaiting collection. You should NOT put your waste in communal waste areas until the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

If the individual does have a test and the test is negative, this can be put in with the normal waste.

If the individual does have a test and it is positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste.

If during an emergency you need to remove the waste before 72 hours, it must be treated as Category B infectious waste. You must:

- keep it separate from your other waste
- arrange for collection by a specialist contractor as hazardous waste

There will be a charge for this service.

Other household waste can be disposed of as normal.

### **Follow Up of Persons Involved in Environmental Decontamination**

The names and contact details of those carrying out cleaning of an area that a possible case has been in should be recorded by the person responsible for the workplace and notified to:

South West Water / Pennon / PWS / Source: [Covid19@Pennon-group.co.uk](mailto:Covid19@Pennon-group.co.uk)

As part of the contact tracing process for a confirmed case, the local Health Protection Team will advise on arrangements for follow up required for 14 days after the cleaning process took place.

### **Resource Availability**

It is recommended that the cleaning and disinfection activities identified in this guidance are carried out by your normal cleaning contractor as it is expected that they would have the necessary consumables and PPE together with the appropriate training and RAMS/SOPs to carry out the guidance efficiently and safely. Site managers should check with their cleaning contractor that they have the capability to carry out these recommendations if required to do so.

In the event that the normal cleaning contractor cannot carry out this guidance internal resources should be identified. In this instance it would be necessary to ensure that the recommended cleaning consumables and PPE are procured in preparation and a risk assessment is completed.

Where cleaning and disinfection activities cannot be carried out by your normal cleaning contractor and internal resources are unavailable then a cleaning request should be sent to:

South West Water / Pennon / PWS / Source: [Covid19@Pennon-group.co.uk](mailto:Covid19@Pennon-group.co.uk)

Instances where the local Health Protection Team recommend a cleaning and decontamination that differs from this guidance should also be notified.

These requests will be highlighted to Group Facilities who will maintain a register of cleaning contractors who have the capability to provide additional support.

### **Cleaning Consumables and PPE Availability**

Where it is necessary to procure cleaning consumables and/or PPE to deliver these enhanced cleaning routines you should use your normal procurement route (Greenham are the preferred supplier of SWW).

The preferred suppliers contact details are as follows:

Arco Ltd

Supplier No. 025575  
<https://www.arco.co.uk>  
Customer Services Tel: 0330 390 2050  
Email: [customer.services@support.co.uk](mailto:customer.services@support.co.uk)

Greenham Ltd

Supplier No. 0010102  
<https://greenham.com>

The Arco Account Manager is Harry Easterbrook (07702 594726 [harry.easterbrook@arco.co.uk](mailto:harry.easterbrook@arco.co.uk)).

The Greenham Account Manager is Kerrie Gorfin (01392 271770 / [kerrie.gorfin@greenham.co.uk](mailto:kerrie.gorfin@greenham.co.uk)).  
If you have not used Greenham before you will need to contact the account manager to view contract pricing and to set up an account.

Stock availability is visible via the Arco and Greenham websites. Procurement will publish details of any back orders of cleaning consumables and PPE via the HomeSafe Me site. This data will be updated as often as possible so please refer back to this site periodically.