

Environmental Decontamination following a possible case of COVID-19 in Primary Care

Once a possible case has been transferred from the primary care premises, the room where the patient was placed should not be used until decontamination has been completed. The room door should remain shut, with windows opened and the air conditioning switched off. Signage can be displayed on the door until the room is put back in use. Once this process has been completed, the room can be put back in use immediately.

Who carries out decontamination?

Every General Medical Practitioner (GMP) has to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and should be meeting the requirements for the Health and Social Care Act to maintain a clean and safe environment. It is the responsibility of the registered organisation to ensure their staff are appropriately trained and have access to equipment.

1.1 Preparation

The responsible person undertaking the cleaning with detergent and disinfectant should be familiar with these processes and

procedures:

- Collect all cleaning equipment and clinical waste bags before entering the room
- Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of as single use items
- Use the PPE equipment that would normally be used when cleaning and disinfecting, in the same way as if someone had vomited in the surgery
- Before entering the room, perform hand hygiene then put on a disposable plastic apron and gloves. If there is visible contamination with body fluids, the need for additional PPE such as a surgical facemask and goggles/visor should be considered

Produced on behalf of:

NHS Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group

1.2 On entering the room

- Keep the door closed with windows open to improve airflow and ventilation whilst using detergent and disinfection products
- Bag all items that have been used for the care of the patient as clinical waste, for example, contents of the waste bin and any consumables that cannot be cleaned with detergent and disinfectant
- Remove any fabric curtains or fabric screens and bag as infectious linen
- Close any sharps containers wiping the surfaces with either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine (av.cl.) or a neutral purpose detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.)

1.3 Cleaning process

Use disposable cloths, paper roll or disposable mop heads, to clean and disinfect all hard surfaces, floor, chairs, door handles, reusable non-invasive care equipment and sanitary fittings in the room. Follow one of the 2 options below:

1. Use a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine (av.cl.)
 2. Undertake a two stage clean using a neutral purpose detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.)
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants
 - Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of as single use items
 - Do not dispense chlorine solutions from a spray bottle

Detergent wipes and chlorine releasing wipes are also available and offer an alternative to making up fresh solutions.

1.4 Cleaning and disinfection of reusable equipment

- Clean and disinfect any reusable non-invasive care equipment, such as blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers, glucometers, that are in the room prior to

their removal

- Clean all reusable equipment systematically from the top or furthest away point
- Clean with a neutral detergent followed by a 70% alcohol wipe if cannot withstand chlorine releasing agents

1.5 Carpeted flooring and soft furnishings

If carpeted floors or items cannot withstand chlorine-releasing agents, consult the manufacturer's instructions for a suitable alternative to use, following or combined with detergent cleaning. Steam cleaning is a suitable alternative.

1.6 On leaving the room

- Discard detergent or disinfectant solutions safely at disposal point (preferably sluice room or domestic hopper)
- Clean, dry and store re-usable parts of cleaning equipment, such as mop handles
- Remove and discard PPE as clinical waste
- Perform hand hygiene
- Waste from a possible or a confirmed case must be disposed of as Category B waste as described in Safe Management of Healthcare Waste 07-01 (p118), suitable for alternative treatment, unless the waste has other properties that would require it to be incinerated. This will be either orange or yellow bag waste. Waste sacks should be double bagged and clearly labelled with date/location and stored in the rigid external waste container to await waste collection by waste contractor.

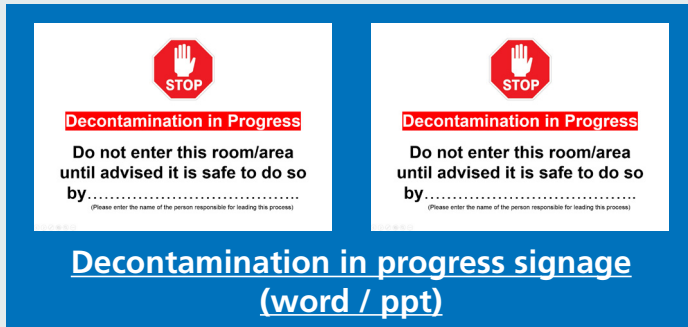
1.7 Cleaning of communal areas

If a suspected case spent time in a communal area, for example, a waiting area or toilet facilities, then these areas should be cleaned with detergent and disinfectant (as above) as soon as practicably possible, unless there has been a blood or body fluid spill which should be dealt with immediately. Once cleaning and disinfection have been completed, the area can be put back in use.

1.8 COVID-19 stock ordering

In order to request stock for the practice please complete the attached form. This is the standard NHS stock supply request form and all fields need to be completed.

Assets to download:



COVID-19 NHS Supply Chain request form (version 1 Midlands)

Guidance for primary care

www.gov.uk/government/publications/wn-cov-guidance-for-primary-care/wn-cov-interim-guidance-for-primary-care

NHS England and NHS Improvement

www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/

Standard operating procedure-general practice

www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/20200305-COVID-19-PRIMARY-CARE-SOP-GP-PUBLICATION-V1.1.pdf

Royal College of General Practitioners

www.rcgp.org.uk/policy/rcgp-policy-areas/covid-19-coronavirus.asp

Primary care preparedness letter

www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/preparedness-letter-primary-care-pharmacy-9-march.pdf

General practice standard operating

www.england.nhs.uk/publication/coronavirus-standard-operating-procedures-for-primary-care-settings/

Current COVID-19 guidance produced by HM Government

www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance?utm_source=3fc1607e-a883-4a20-aed7-efb4e3174c0f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

PHE campaigns resources

www.campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources
(you will need to register with an account to download materials)

Waste Guidelines Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-safe-management-of-healthcare-waste