



Coronavirus-COVID-19 Guidance

The information developed for this guidance was taken largely from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>. ***It is important to note that the information is still developing as world health officials learn more about this strain of virus. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust any guidance as needed.***

Coviden 19 Stats

- The virus is transmitted from person to person by exposure to large respiratory drops, by sneezing and possibly coughing, and by direct contact. The infection itself takes place in the respiratory tract. The recommendation at this point is to take the same precautions as a flu

outbreak. Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer and when sneezing do not cover your mouth and nose with your hand but sneeze into the crook of your arm.

- At this point based on knowledge from other viruses such as SARS, it is believed that the life cycle of the Coronavirus outside the body is very short: it is estimated to be less than 20 minutes. Exception to the rule: linen that is contaminated with feces or bodily fluids may remain infected for up to 24 hours.

Risks to Drycleaning & Laundry Personnel

The risk when transporting and cleaning linen from the general public is considered very small at this point. General standard hyenic procedures that you have outlined for your plant are appropriate such as

- Wash your hands regularly
- Cough and sneeze in the inside of your elbow
- Use tissues
- Routine cleaning of hard surfaces with a disinfectant
- Availability of hand sanitizers throughout the plant and counter area
- Drivers should routinely use hand sanitizers and wipe down the steering wheel and other hard surfaces frequently handled.

Cleaning Garments from the General Public

There is no need to take any special precautions **AT THIS TIME**. The CDC advises that the drycleaning process, which includes cleaning and pressing, is effective on most viruses.

As is true with other viruses, laundering in hot water, 160 degrees F and with chlorine bleach is the most effective method for sanitizing laundry. If hot water and chlorine bleach are not safe for the items then laundering with a disinfectant product is an option. The CDC states the laundering with detergent alone is an effective method.

Cleaning Linens Suspected of Being Contaminated with Bodily Fluids:

Follow Bloodborne Pathogens Guidelines for handling and laundering. See DLI bulletins OSHA 4 & 5 and DLI Regulatory & Legislative Bulletin 10 for further information. These bulletins are available in DLI's Drycleaning Encyclopedia.

- The customer or care institution can or must supply the linen marked and packaged separately.
 - We must mention other guidelines from the CDC and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) on the handling of linen. If linen is to be transported on routes, then the soiled linen must be separated from the clean linen. Any containers used to transport clean linen, if previously used for soiled linen, must be properly decontaminated. Containers need to be labeled appropriately.
 - Personnel should wear protective clothing if there is a risk of direct contact with biological agents (for example in the event of splashing). Replace and launder protective clothing in the event of contamination.
 - Washing should be done at high temperature, 160F, for 25 minutes with chlorine bleach.
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