

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando met for the Special Meeting at City Hall on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. with Mayor Tom Ferguson presiding. Aldermen present were: Alderman Harris, Alderman Bryant, Alderman Miller, Alderman Higdon, Alderman McLendon (via phone), and Alderwoman Brooks. Also present were: City Attorney Kenny Stockton, Police Chief Scot Worsham, Community and Economic Development Director Gia Matheny, Parks and Recreation Director Dewayne Williams, Public Works Director Mikey Dyer, Deputy City Clerk Octavia Glasper, EMS Supervisor Joanna Herring, and Mayor's Executive Assistant Jessica Green.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Date: March 13, 2020

To: All Aldermen of the Municipality of Hernando, Mississippi

From: Mayor Tom Ferguson

Subject: Special Meeting

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando shall be held on March 13, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. at the City Hall Building in the City of Hernando, Mississippi.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- 1) Discussion of health and safety concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This notice is given pursuant to and in compliance with Section 21-3-21 of the Mississippi Code. Please be present.

Tom Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin, City Clerk

Alderman were notified by email, March 12, 2020.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING WITH MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMAN FOR CITY OF HERNANDO. FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Ferguson, Alderman Harris, Alderman Bryant, Alderman Miller, Alderman Higdon, Alderman McLendon (via phone) and Alderwoman Brooks.

Also: Chief Scott Worsham, Gia Matheny, DeWayne Williams, Mikey Dyer; Octavia Gasper, Joanna Herring and Jessica Green.

RE: DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS a/k/a COVID-19
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR FERGUSON.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Invocation - Alderman Miller
3. Mayor introduced Octavia Gasper and Joanna Herring to provide information in regard to the COVID-19 virus.
 - A. Octavia Gasper read to all those present a memorandum in regard to information that she and Julie Harris had received from a meeting held at Baptist DeSoto Hospital on March 12, 2020. Octavia advised the board that beginning in the next three (3) days the ability to test will be available to private health care providers. Currently in Mississippi only the Mississippi Department of Health has the ability to test.
 - B. Joanna Herring also advised all those present about the need to wash your hands, keep surfaces clean and use "clorox" solutions to use in cleaning areas as it is the most effective. She also advised that they are having some difficulty in obtaining certain supplies due to the fact that demand is high and the supplies are currently low. She also commented that gatherings of 250 or more people is currently discouraged.
4. Discussion
 - Alderman Miller asked Miss Herring about the current price of supplies and Miss Herring advised that they were not seeing any increase in costs. She again emphasized that a lot of the supplies, including masks, are in short supply. She advised that they are encouraging the use of hand washing with soap and water at the stations and save the hand sanitizer for field use. Alderman Miller asked that he would like to see all departments sanitize their areas regularly. Mr. Williams advised that they are cleaning and sanitizing the commonly used areas and furniture in their

facilities.

- Mayor Ferguson then had Chief Scott Worsham and Mikey Dyer speak in regard to their departments regarding the current situation.
- Mayor Ferguson then requested that DeWayne Williams address the issue of the upcoming programs with the parks department. Mr. Williams advised the Mayor and Board that the state soccer association has postponed the upcoming soccer event and that currently the baseball/softball tryouts were set to begin on March 17, 2020.
- A brief discussion was held about the timing of the tryouts and it was ultimately agreed upon that it would be wise to delay the tryouts for a week with a new start date of March 24, 2020. Mr. Williams suggested that this date would work within their system.

Mayor Ferguson then referred to the printed email received from Superintendent Cory Uselton, which was provided to the board and that currently all of the cities in DeSoto County, Mississippi are expecting to "mirror" the school system in regard to its approach to the current situation. Mayor Ferguson advised that he thought "mirroring" the school system would be good approach at this time.

- Alderman McLendon, participating by telephone, inquired about the number of upcoming events at the Gale Center and the availability of hand sanitizer and toilet paper available. Mr. Williams advised that there were two (2) events this weekend and that currently they had adequate supplies for the events. There was discussion that the city currently does not provide hand sanitizer at the facility but that anyone renting the facility may provide their own.
- Mr. Williams did advise that currently the city has its scheduled senior program which meets regularly in place and after discussion among the board it was decided that such program should be temporarily suspended. Mr. Williams advised that he would provide as much notice as possible to all participants and post a notice on the door regarding the temporary cancellation of the same.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions from anyone and there were none.

Alderman Sonny Bryant made a motion to adjourn and Alderman Gary Higdon seconded the motion. All approved.

That attached hereto and made a part of the minutes are the handouts provided by Mayor Ferguson at the meeting.

Good afternoon Board,

Yesterday afternoon, Octavia and I met with leaders and business owners from around the county to discuss COVID 19 (Corona Virus). The CEO of Baptist Desoto, Dr. Ward and an Infectious Disease nurse, spoke in detail about the spread of the virus and how to contain it.

There are currently NO patients that have tested positive at Baptist Desoto. However, based on info they have received from the CDC they do expect that to change in the coming days. Currently, the only place in the State of Mississippi that has access to the Corona Virus test is through the local health departments. Beginning Monday, private doctor's offices will be able to order test kits and begin testing in their offices and hospitals.

Once you are exposed to the virus, it can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear. Once you have symptoms and test positive you are strongly urged to self-isolate for an additional 14 days and must be fever free and they recommend having a doctor's release before you return to work.

Most working age people will suffer symptoms similar to the flu. Elderly and people that have underlying medical conditions are the most at-risk group of individuals.

Within the next 48-72 hours, the Baptist CEO advised they would close all entrances to the hospital with the exception of 3. Anyone arriving at the hospital, for treatment or to visit a patient, will go through security and have their temperature checked before being granted entry. If they present with a temperature of higher than 100.4 they will be turned away if there to visit patient or they will be sent to ER if they are there to seek treatment. If necessary, the hospital is prepared to erect tents in the parking lot and screen patients before they enter the hospital.

They strongly recommend if a person has mild symptoms to call their doctor's office and discuss with them over the phone. It's possible they will be able to self-medicate, self-isolate and not spread the virus any further. Since this is a viral infection, antibiotics will not shorten the duration of the symptoms.

The best course to fight this virus is to diligently wash your hands, do not touch your face and to use Clorox and/or sanitizer at every possible opportunity. They do not recommend wearing masks due to the fact that people take them on and off often and this defeats the purpose by having your hands touching your face.

If you have additional questions or comments feel free to contact me on my cell – 901-210-0234.

Thank you,

Julie K Harris

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

March 11, 2020

What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or "SARS-CoV-2", is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 has been named coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated "COVID-19"). The initial reports of the outbreak suggested a link to a large seafood and animal market in Wuhan City; however, there is now evidence of broader person to person transmission. Cases are being reported from other parts of China and other countries, including the U.S.

The first case in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020. The first case of person-to-person transmission in the U.S. was reported on January 30, 2020, in a close contact to a confirmed case. Community spread is being detected in a growing number of countries, including in parts of the United States. In the coming days to weeks, more confirmed cases and transmission are expected in the US, including probable cases in Mississippi.

What is a novel coronavirus?

A novel coronavirus is a new strain in the coronavirus family that has not been previously identified. The virus causing COVID-19 is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold. These are different viruses, and patients with COVID-19 will be evaluated and cared for differently than patients with common coronavirus diagnosis.

What is the source of COVID-19?

Public health officials and partners are working hard to identify the source of COVID-19. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. SARS, another coronavirus that emerged to infect people, came from cats, while MERS, another coronavirus that emerged to infect people, came from camels.

How does the virus spread?

Most often, spread from person-to-person happens among close contacts (about 6 feet). Person-to-person transmission is thought to occur mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how flu and other respiratory

germs spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

It's currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

Typically, with most respiratory viruses, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

Can someone who has had COVID-19 spread the illness to others?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person. Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others. That is why CDC recommends that these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home (depending on how sick they are) until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. It can mimic flu symptoms including fatigue. COVID-19 differs from the flu because it is connected with travel to a country with widespread community transmission, or close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

How can I help protect myself?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Get a flu vaccination every year.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in Mississippi?

No, there are currently no confirmed cases in Mississippi.

Currently, the risk of infection in Mississippi is low, but the MSDH continues to actively monitor the situation. Transmission of the virus is currently dependent on exposure, through direct travel to an affected country experiencing widespread community transmission (i.e. China, Iran, Italy, Japan, or South Korea) within the past 14 days, or direct contact to someone with confirmed infection in the past 14 days.

Who is at the highest risk for severe illness?

Older adults (65 years of age and older) and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or because you have a serious long-term health problem, it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease.

What is Mississippi doing specifically to prepare for the spread of this virus?

MSDH is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving situation. With other state agencies, MSDH has activated emergency operations in order to prepare for possible person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in Mississippi.

MSDH is increasing surveillance (monitoring) activities to identify cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible and to limit person-to-person transmission.

The CDC continues to notify MSDH of travelers with possible exposure or travel to areas of concern. Upon notification from the CDC, MSDH initiates active monitoring of these travelers as indicated. Additionally, any monitored individual who begins to show symptoms will be evaluated at an appropriate healthcare facility.

MSDH is working diligently with healthcare providers throughout the state to monitor the situation and provide guidance and updated information as the situation changes.

Other steps that MSDH is taking include ensuring the capacity of the MSDH Public Health Laboratory for COVID-19 testing and informing all Mississippi healthcare providers about procedures for identifying and testing for COVID-19 cases.

MSDH is also providing guidance to business, education and other entities on how to respond to the possible spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Should I be tested for COVID-19?

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, **within 14 days after travel from an affected country with widespread community transmission (i.e. China, Iran, Italy, Japan, or South Korea)**, you should call ahead to a healthcare professional and mention your recent travel.

If you develop a fever or symptoms of respiratory illness and have had **close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient**, you should call ahead to a healthcare professional and mention your exposure to a COVID-19 patient.

Your healthcare provider will be able to evaluate you and determine the best course of treatment and testing. MSDH is available to answer any healthcare provider questions about exposure risk and testing.

Is it safe to go on a cruise?

CDC recommends travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, postpone all cruise ship travel at this time. Cruise ship passengers are at an increased risk of person-to-person spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues should avoid situations that put them at increased risk for more severe disease, including avoiding crowded places, and avoiding non-essential travel.

Am I at risk for novel coronavirus from a package or products shipping from China?

There is still a lot that is unknown about the newly emerged COVID-19 and how it spreads. In general, because these germs don't live long on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures.

Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets.

Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods.

What about animals or animal products imported from China?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not have any evidence to suggest that animals or animal products imported from China pose a risk for spreading COVID-19 in the United States. However, this is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available. Currently the strongest risk of transmission is respiratory droplets.

Where can I go for more information about COVID-19?

- Visit the MSDH website at <http://HealthyMS.com>
- Call the MSDH COVID-19 Hotline (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 1-877-978-6453.
- Download the free **MS Ready** app on your smartphone to receive public health information and alerts from MSDH.

Mayor

From: Cory Uselton <cory.uselton@dcsms.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:01 AM
To: sphillips@obms.us; Darren Musselwhite; mayor@hornlake.org; mayor@townofwalls.com; Mayor; Lee Caldwell; rdenison@desotocountymys.gov; Mark Gardner; Jessie Medlin; Michael Lee
Subject: DeSoto County Schools - updated school calendar

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mayors and Board of Supervisors: Good morning! The following email was just sent to parents regarding our updated school calendar. As we all know, this is subject to change. I appreciate the support from our leaders. If I can do anything to help you, please let me know. Have a great day!

DeSoto County Schools Parents:

In response to the Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19), officials with DeSoto County Schools have been receiving detailed guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Department of Education in recent weeks. On Thursday, the Mississippi State Department of Health held a press conference in which the State Health Officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, recommended no school closings at this time. Based on the Mississippi Department of Health's recommendation and school closure guidelines that have been shared by the Mississippi Department of Education, school officials are making plans for regular school days.

Adjusted Spring 2020 Calendar for DeSoto County Schools:

- Monday, March 16 Staff Development Day
- Tuesday, March 17 Students return from Spring Break
- Friday, April 10 Good Friday Holiday (No School)
- Monday, April 13 Regular School Day (Monday after Easter)
- Thursday, May 21 Students' Last Day and Teachers' Last Day

Notes about the school calendar:

- Monday, March 16 will be used as a staff development day for teachers and administrators. This will allow more time for the school staff to prepare for the students' return, and it will also give additional time for extensive cleaning at the schools.
- Parents are cautioned that there is still the possibility of school closures in the days and weeks ahead. This unique situation is changing rapidly, and parents will be updated via email and phone call if the school schedule needs to be altered in any way.

How are decisions made regarding Mississippi school closings in a pandemic situation?

- The decision regarding a school opening or closing in a pandemic situation is different from a situation involving inclement weather. In pandemic situations, school districts must follow guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Department of Education. In addition to Dr.

Dobbs' recommendation regarding school closures, school districts received guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education Thursday afternoon regarding requirements that must be met for school closures. That guidance can be found at the following link:
<https://msachieves.mdek12.org/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-to-school-districts-as-of-march-12-2020/>

What could cause a Mississippi school district to be closed in a pandemic situation?

- School districts that encounter “a cluster of suspected pandemic influenza” must follow the Mississippi Pandemic Influenza Incident Index under guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education. When those situations develop, school districts are then required to consult with their county health department and the Mississippi State Department of Health to determine when it is appropriate to close a school. As stated earlier, the Mississippi State Department of Health is not recommending any school closures at this time, but this situation could change at any time.
- A school district could also close if the Governor of Mississippi or the President of the United States declares a state of emergency in our area.

What steps have been taken by DeSoto County Schools regarding school health?

- **Monitoring:** District officials are monitoring student illness reports, attendance trends, and absenteeism, and they are also monitoring the latest information from the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These agencies inform school districts when cases of certain communicable diseases are confirmed, and they also issue guidelines for actions and communications in those situations.
- **Cleaning:** The custodial department already has a daily cleaning plan in place for each school, but extra cleaning and disinfecting is provided during times of increased illness. Special attention is given to frequently touched surfaces.
- **Hygiene Education:** School officials will continue to follow CDC recommendations regarding hygiene which includes but is not limited to: washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding the touching of eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and coughing and/or sneezing into a sleeve or tissue and placing the tissue immediately in the trash. Parents can assist schools by reminding their children of these recommended practices.

What steps have been taken by Desoto County Schools regarding attendance and travel?

- For students and employees who are sick and running a fever, it is recommended that they should stay at home until they are free of fever for a full 24 hours without the use of any fever-reducing medication. Teachers will provide additional time and flexibility for students to make up work due to prolonged absences.
- School field trips may be postponed. Because travel guidance from health experts and government officials is developing, that situation will be evaluated on a daily basis over the next few weeks. As of now, field trips will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- District officials will receive guidance from the Mississippi High School Activities Association regarding athletic events and activities. At this time, there have been no changes to the MHSAA spring sports calendar.
- As a precautionary measure, parents must notify their school's principal by noon on Monday, March 16 if their child has been to a country listed on the CDC's Level 3 Travel Health Notice. The CDC's guidance regarding travel and a list of Level 3 countries can be found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>. Employees must also follow these guidelines by contacting their

direct supervisor. District officials will follow guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health regarding students and/or employees who have traveled to these countries.

- The absence requirement in the district exemption policy is being waived for the May 2020 final exams. All other portions of the exemption policy still apply regarding academic average, discipline, etc. Disclaimer: District officials do not have the authority to waive school attendance requirements that are enforced by the state truancy officers. At this point, district officials have not been notified of any adjustments to state truancy laws.

This is an unprecedented situation, but district officials will continue to work in conjunction with local health officials, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Mississippi Department of Education throughout the spring semester to ensure the safety of students and staff. This is a fluid situation, and parents will be notified immediately if any changes take place.

Parents can read additional information from the Mississippi State Department of Health at www.msdh.ms.gov and/or on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations

Interim Recommendations for US Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019

Background

There is much to learn about the novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Based on what is currently known about the virus, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts (within about 6 feet). This type of transmission occurs via respiratory droplets. Transmission of novel coronavirus to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented. Transmission of coronavirus in general occurs much more commonly through respiratory droplets than through fomites. Current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings.

Purpose

This guidance provides recommendations on the cleaning and disinfection of rooms or areas of those with suspected or with confirmed COVID-19 have visited. It is aimed at limiting the survival of novel coronavirus in key environments. These recommendations will be updated if additional information becomes available.

These guidelines are focused on community, non-healthcare facilities (e.g., schools, institutions of higher education, offices, daycare centers, businesses, community centers) that do and do not house persons overnight. These guidelines are not meant for cleaning staff in healthcare facilities or repatriation sites, households, or for others for whom specific guidance already exists.

Definitions

- *Community facilities* (e.g., schools, daycares centers, businesses) comprise most non-healthcare settings that are visited by the general public outside of a household.
- *Cleaning* refers to the removal of dirt and impurities, including germs, from surfaces. Cleaning alone does not kill germs. But by removing the germs, it decreases their number and therefore any risk of spreading infection.
- *Disinfecting* works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. But killing germs remaining on a surface after cleaning further reduces any risk of spreading infection.





Cleaning and Disinfection After Persons Suspected/Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility

Timing and location of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces

- At a school, daycare center, office, or other facility that does not house people overnight:
 - It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
 - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- At a facility that does house people overnight:
 - Follow Interim Guidance for US Institutions of Higher Education on working with state and local health officials to isolate ill persons and provide temporary housing as needed.
 - It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
 - In areas where ill persons are being housed in isolation, follow Interim Guidance for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019. This includes focusing on cleaning and disinfecting common areas where staff/others providing services may come into contact with ill persons, but reducing cleaning and disinfection of bedrooms/bathrooms used by ill persons to as needed.
 - In areas where ill persons have visited or used, continue routine cleaning and disinfection as in this guidance.

How to Clean and Disinfect

Surfaces

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
 - Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
 - Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims   are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
 - For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
 - If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
 - Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims (examples at this link  ) that are suitable for porous surfaces

Linens, Clothing, and Other Items That Go in the Laundry

- Do not shake dirty laundry; this minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
- Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hand Hygiene:

- Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
 - Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to clean hands after removing gloves.
- Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures to their supervisor.
- Cleaning staff and others should clean hands often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Follow normal preventive actions while at work and home, including cleaning hands and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Additional key times to clean hands include:
 - After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After using the restroom
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - After contact with animals or pets
 - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child)

Additional Considerations for Employers:

- Employers should work with their local and state health departments to ensure appropriate local protocols and guidelines, such as updated/additional guidance for cleaning and disinfection, are followed, including for identification of new potential cases of COVID-19.
- Employers should educate staff and workers performing cleaning, laundry, and trash pick-up activities to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 and provide instructions on what to do if they develop symptoms within 14 days after their last possible exposure to the virus. At a minimum, any staff should immediately notify their supervisor and the local health department if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. The health department will provide guidance on what actions need to be taken. When working with your local health department check their available hours.
- Employers should develop policies for worker protection and provide training to all cleaning staff on site prior to providing cleaning tasks. Training should include when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and how to properly dispose of PPE.

- Employers must ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace in accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard (29 CFR 1910.1200 [☐](#)).
- Employers must comply with OSHA's standards on Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030 [☐](#)), including proper disposal of regulated waste, and PPE (29 CFR 1910.132 [☐](#)).

Additional Resources

- OSHA COVID-19 Website [☐](#)
- CDC Home Care Guidance

Page last reviewed: March 6, 2020

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases

MAYOR TOM FERGUSON

ATTEST:

KATIE HARBIN, CITY CLERK