



FOUNTAIN & WARREN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

March 13 2020

Guidance for Helping Families Grieve during the COVID-19 Outbreak

In consideration of the global pandemic, COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Fountain and Warren County Health Department would like to offer the following advisory guidelines for funeral homes and coroners.

We would advise:

- Making environmental cleaning procedures a top priority. Clean any surfaces that come into frequent human contact every four hours.
- Consider suspending hot beverage services to the public and instead offer water bottles.
- Try to keep personal space zones between visitors and family of a distance of six feet.
- Monitor the number of people congregating in your rooms, and if it becomes excessive, ask that some conversations be moved to another area.
- Consider displaying posters from the CDC with information about COVID-19 around your facilities.
- Considering displaying posters about handwashing in your public restrooms.
- Make hand sanitizer and tissues available.
- Consider implementing a live streaming option as an alternative to people physically coming in for the service. There are multiple options available for livestreaming services that people can choose from, or they can opt for setting something up themselves. This would be a great option for those who would otherwise need to travel out of state.
- Recommend that the elderly and those with chronic illness or who might otherwise be immune compromised stay home from funerals. Ask those who are sick or who have a history of recent travel to affected areas stay home, or offer an alternative way to grieve such as live streaming.
- See if people would consider postponing actual services until a later date. Also consider opting for outdoor ceremonies, where it is less likely that many people will be crammed together in smaller spaces.



What steps should be taken to clean and disinfect against COVID-19?

How to Clean:

As part of standard infection control practices, routine cleaning should be ongoing and time should be allocated for individuals to thoroughly clean. Surfaces touched most frequently should be prioritized. These can become reservoirs for germs and pathways to be transmitted to people through surface contact.

Cleaning removes germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects.

Cleaning: Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants in order to reduce soil and remove germs. Dirt and other materials on surfaces can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. Clean surfaces using water and soap or detergent to reduce soil and remove germs. For combination products that can both clean and disinfect, always follow the instructions on the specific product label to ensure effective use.

Disinfection: Cleaning of soiled areas must be completed prior to disinfection to ensure the effectiveness of the disinfectant product. Individuals do not need to wear respiratory protection while cleaning or disinfecting, but should use personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves) as recommended on product labels. Carefully read and follow all label instructions for safe and effective use.

What to clean with:

Every day household cleaners and disinfectants are recommended such as Lysol, Clorox, Mr. Clean, any generics of these brands, etc. These products are available in sprays, wipes, and liquids. Follow label directions to kill the virus. This includes adequate contact times (i.e., the amount of time a disinfectant should remain on surfaces to be effective). Times can be up to 10 minutes. Disinfectants that come in a wipe form will also list effective contact times on their label.

For cleaners and disinfectants that come in concentrated forms, carefully follow label instructions to ensure effectiveness.

Home cleaning solution 1/4 cup of bleach in 1 quart of water or 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water. (Please use gloves)

Disposal: Place all used gloves and other disposable items in a bag that can be tied closed before disposing of them with other waste. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds immediately after removing gloves or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly soiled.

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 was in your location, perform cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces throughout the area. Cleaning and disinfection should be conducted by individuals who have been trained to use products in a safe and effective manner. Training should be ongoing to ensure procedures for safe and effective use of all products are followed. Training assures that individuals are reminded to read and follow use and safety instructions on product labels. It should also identify the location of all personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves) that should be used.

Where to clean:

Restrooms (High Risk Location)

- Clean and disinfect all restroom surfaces, fixtures, door knobs, push plates, and switches

Examples of priority areas for routine cleaning include:

- High contact surfaces that are touched by many different people, such as light switches, handrails and doorknobs/handles.
- Dust- and wet-mopping or auto-scrubbing floors.
- Vacuuming of entryways and high traffic areas.
- Removing trash
- Wiping heat and air conditioner vents
- Spot cleaning walls
- Spot cleaning carpets
- Dusting horizontal surfaces and light fixtures
- Cleaning spills
- Regular cleaning and laundering of linens

Examples of frequently touched surfaces:

- Computers & Accessories
- Desks and chairs
- Counters, tables and chairs
- Door handles and push plates
- Handrails
- Kitchen and bathroom faucets
- Appliance surfaces

First Aid Station/Health Office:

- Clean and disinfect health cots regularly (after each use)
- Cover treatment tables and use pillow protectors
- Discard or launder coverings after each use