

THINKING AHEAD...

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FAQ FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT DURING COVID-19

WHAT IF SOMEONE IS SHOWING SYMPTOMS?

CDC has a self-checker which is a guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>

WHAT IF A MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AND LIVES IN THE FACILITY?

A protocol should be established by the group/entity that owns the decision (e.g. Housing Corporation, National organization, etc.).

The CDC recommends that someone who tests positive should stay home and self-isolate from other people and pets. This is known as home isolation and members should remain in a "sick room" and use a separate bathroom.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

If the member lives in the facility, here are some things to consider:

- Do you have the ability to provide a "sick room" and separate bathroom for the individual?
- Is there a safer alternative (ex. member goes home; university is providing housing for those that have tested positive)?
- Do we have active cleaning and disinfecting programs in place in order for someone to remain in the facility?

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLEANING VERSUS DECONTAMINATION?

Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs but by removing them, it lowers their number and the risk for spreading infection. Disinfecting refers to using chemicals, for example, EPA-N list registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of infection.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>

List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2: All products on this list meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

WHAT IS YOUR GUIDANCE ON WHEN A PROFESSIONAL DECONTAMINATION IS NEEDED?

If a person is infected, is the house being cleaned per the CDC recommendations? A professional decontamination is not required if you are following CDC protocol. However, from what is known about COVID-19 is the germs can live on surfaces anywhere from three to nine days and can be transmitted through the air and can linger for up to three hours.

So, if more than one person is infected in the facility, it is recommended you utilize a professional decontamination company. Since shedding of the virus is around 14 days, one decontamination might not be enough. However, daily cleaning and disinfecting will be required to maintain someone in the facility.

In deciding, you need to determine if you want to clean the whole facility, common areas, known hot spots (e.g. room where someone lives, bathroom, dining area).

WHAT QUESTIONS WOULD I ASK A PROFESSIONAL DECONTAMINATION COMPANY BEFORE HIRING?

- Is your company certified/trained to deal with infectious diseases? If so, by whom (e.g. GBAC.org, IICRC.org)?
- What is training and certification background of the technicians?
- What is EPA N list product will they use? (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>)
- Will the product color fast or corrode the household goods?
- What personal protective equipment (PPE) will they be wearing during the decontamination?
- What type of system will they utilize to disperse the chemical (e.g. fogger, electrostatic sprayer)?
- What is the contact time (how long does it take to kill the virus)?
- When is reentry possible after the treatment?
- What is the price per square foot?

Updated information on coronavirus/COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

<http://npic.orst.edu/ingred/ptype/amicrob/covid19.html>

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