# **Cleaning and Disinfection**

## Routine cleaning and disinfection

Achieve Australia sites should routinely (at least daily), clean frequently touched surfaces (for example, tabletops, door handles, light switches, desks, toilets, taps, TV remotes, kitchen surfaces and cupboard handles). Also, clean surfaces and fittings when visibly soiled and immediately after any spillage. Where available, a disinfectant may be used following thorough cleaning.

## What to clean and disinfect and when

Clean and disinfect all areas (for example, offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used. Close off the area before cleaning and disinfection. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation and then commence cleaning and disinfection.

# **How to clean and disinfect**

1. Wear gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Gloves should be discarded after each clean. If it is necessary to use reusable gloves, gloves should only be used for COVID-19 related cleaning and disinfection and should not be used for other purposes. Wash reusable gloves with soap and water after use and leave to dry. Clean hands immediately after removing gloves.
2. Thoroughly clean surfaces using detergent (soap) and water.
3. Apply disinfectant to surfaces using disposable paper towel or a disposable cloth. If non-disposable cloths are used, ensure they are laundered and dried before reusing.
4. Ensure surfaces remain wet for the period of time required to kill the virus (contact time) as specified by the manufacturer. If no time is specified, leave for 10 minutes.

A one-step detergent/disinfectant product may be used as long as the manufacturer’s instructions are followed regarding dilution, use and contact times for disinfection (that is, how long the product must remain on the surface to ensure disinfection takes place).

## Cleaning and disinfection of items that cannot withstand bleach

Soft furnishings or fabric covered items (for example, fabric covered chairs or car seats) that cannot withstand the use of bleach or other disinfectants or be washed in a washing machine, should be cleaned with warm water and detergent to remove any soil or dirt then steam cleaned. Use steam cleaners that release steam under pressure to ensure appropriate disinfection.

## Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when cleaning

Gloves are recommended when cleaning and disinfecting.

Use of eye protection, masks and gowns is not required when undertaking routine cleaning.

Always follow the manufacturer’s advice contained in the MSDS Sheets regarding use of PPE when using disinfectants.

For cleaning and disinfection for suspected and confirmed cases, when available, a surgical mask and eye protection may provide a barrier against inadvertently touching your face with contaminated hands and fingers, whether gloved or not.

For cleaning and disinfection for suspected and confirmed cases, wear a full-length disposable gown in addition to the surgical mask, eye protection and gloves if there is visible contamination with respiratory secretions or other body fluid. Get advice from your work health and safety consultants on correct procedures for wearing PPE.

## Choice, preparation and use of disinfectants

* Achieve Australia has a store of appropriate cleaning products which can be distributed to sites.
* Where possible, use a disinfectant for which the manufacturer claims antiviral activity (meaning it can kill viruses) **not bacteria**. Chlorine-based (bleach) disinfectants are one product that is commonly used. Other options include common household disinfectants or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol (for example, methylated spirits).

# **Management of linen, crockery and cutlery**

If items can be laundered, lauder them in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions using the warmest setting possible. Dry items completely. Do not shake dirty laundry as this may disperse the virus through the air.

Wash crockery and cutlery in a dishwasher on the highest setting possible. If a dishwasher is not available, hand wash in hot soapy water.