

Low Risk Pathway Cleaning and Disinfection COVID-19

**NHS England and NHS Improvement**

**Publications approval reference: 001**

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| Confirm you have been trained in the safe use of chemicals and equipment and procedures to perform this task. | Sign |
| Date |  |
| Name |  |
| Refresher training date (updated guidance) |  |

**LOW RISK PATHWAY (LRP)** - The local Trust will classify areas under each Pathway, there may be two pathway areas within a ward / department, and these may change on a regular basis. A LRP applies to any emergency/urgent care facility where:

* Individuals triaged/clinically assessed prior to treatment (inpatient/outpatient) with no

COVID-19 contacts or symptoms who have isolated/shielded

* Patients who have a negative SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) test result within 72 hours of

care and, for planned admissions, have self-isolated since the test date

* Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 AND have had at least 3

consecutive days without fever or respiratory symptoms AND a negative SARS-CoV-2 test result

* Patients or individuals in any care facility where testing is undertaken regularly (remains negative)

**All facilities staff performing environmental decontamination should, where possible, be allocated to specific area(s) and not be moved between different pathways**

**Always Practice social distancing of 2 metres wherever possible between staff and patients**

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| **Section 1 A**  **PPE - The following PPE must be worn by all persons entering a room / area within a Low Risk Pathway (Non AGP)** | | **Indicates:**  **Single use or Sessional use** |
| 1 | Disposable plastic apron as part of workwear PPE | Single use |
| 2 | Disposable Gloves as part of workwear PPE | Single use |
| 3 | Surgical mask Type II for extended use, ( FRSM Type IIR for patient contact)  Remove mask if becomes wet and replace to be worn at all times | Sessional use- see below |
| 4 | Eye / face protection (Visor) as part of workwear PPE | Single use |
|  | “sessional” use (a session ends when a healthcare worker leaves the care setting) i.e. at break or end of shift. |  |
| **1B**  **PPE - Airborne precautions are NOT required for AGPs on patients/individuals in the low risk COVID-19 pathway, providing the patient has no other infectious agent transmitted via the droplet or airborne route.** | |  |
|  | – **SEEK ADVICE IN LOW RISK AREAS from nurse in charge / line manager or IPC** |  |

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| **Section 2 -preparation and cleaning process general areas for all categories of clean** | |
| 1 | Prepare cleaning trolley with disposable cleaning cloths/mops or launderable cleaning cloths and mops transported and laundered according protocol shown below. |
| 2 | Revert back to pre-pandemic cleaning arrangements and agreed local disinfection protocols |
| 3 | If locally agreed chlorine can be stood down for cleaning Low Risk Pathways |
| 4 | Dose disposable cloths and mops according to the correct product and dosage instructions |

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| **Section 3 - Daily cleaning of occupied Rooms / Bed spaces - Low Risk Pathway** | |
| 1 | Clean hands then don appropriate PPE provided correctly as detailed in section 1 |
| 2 | Clean the area according to the sites standard isolation procedure, |
| 3 | Clean all areas following high to low, clean to dirty principles in the patient room and associated toilet facility, finish with cleaning the floor. |
| 4 | The frequency of cleaning the care environment in designated care areas should be reviewed in line with local IPC |
| 5 | Replenish, soap, gel, paper towels and toilet rolls as required |
| 6 | Remove all waste bags and replace with the appropriate colour waste bags |
| 7 | Remove and dispose of PPE, wash hands including forearms if they have been splashed |

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| **Section 4, Discharge cleaning of all areas following patient** | |
| 1 | Wearing appropriate PPE provided as detailed in section 1 |
| 2 | Ensure bed linen and patients personal belongings have been removed prior to the clean commencing. |
| 3 | Remove disposable curtains and dispose of as category B waste, or for fabric curtains, remove and place for laundry in red alginate stitched bag and outer bag as per the local policy |
| 4 | Clean all areas following high to low, clean to dirty principles in the patient room and associated toilet facility, finish with cleaning the floor |
| 5 | Pay particular attention to touch points |
| 6 | Replenish, soap, gel, paper towels and toilet rolls as required |
| 7 | Rehang curtains either fabric or disposable according to local procedure (date as policy states) |
| 8 | Remove all waste bags and replace with the appropriate colour waste bags |
| 9 | Remove and dispose of PPE, wash hands including forearms if they have been splashed |

**Notes**

* **AGP’s PPE Section 1B ‘Task’ definition – A ‘Task’ for cleaning will be a whole room or cohort area within the care setting e.g. a bay, a side room, a screened area within ITU etc – A single gown can be used to fully clean the area described however aprons and gloves must be changed after each patient / bed space. When ‘task’ area is completed Doff PPE and Don PPE as Section 1A**
* **FFP3 Filtering face piece class 3 – staff must have been Fit Tested and regularly fit checked to use this equipment**
* **Combined Chlorine solutions are a mixture of chlorine and detergent which include Chlor-Clean, Actichlor-plus and So-Chlor brand of products**
* **Chlorine without detergent include sodium hypochlorite, Milton, Haztabs and Actichlor, if this process is followed areas will need to be pre-cleaned with detergent solution then disinfected with the chlorine solution at 1000ppm**
* **Electronic equipment cleaning should be performed with 70% alcohol-based wipes**
* **Bodily spillages should be cleaned promptly according to local policy**
* **Only cleaning (detergent) and disinfectant products supplied by employers are to be used. Products must be prepared and used according to the manufacturers’ instructions and recommended product "contact times" must be followed. If alternative cleaning agents/disinfectants are to be used, they should only on the advice of the IPC team and conform to EN standard 14476 for viricidal activity**
* **National guidance states that communal toilets in inpatient areas should be cleaned following each use.**

**Local guidance:**

* **Follow the COVID-19 FM service guidance document for the relevant area (updated 20/08/20)**
* **There is a page on this document where local arrangements can be specified, within the latest guidance the autonomy has been given to Trusts to adapt the document to fit locally to adjust to their local and regional needs including the local agreement for cleaning toilets after each use**
* **Risk assessment – The management team will provide the Trust Risk assessment for each area; this is to be followed**
* **Local IPC guidance – All local IPC teams will agree the SOP’s and local guidance additions**
* **Pathways – Pathways may change on a daily basis, ensure the management team onsite are linked into the sites updates via email, Silver meetings etc**

**Reference Documents**

1. Covid 19 guidance for infection prevention and control in heaLthcare settings V 1.1 upDATED PPe GUIDANCE 18th MAY – Now Archived
2. Guidance for the remobilisation of services within health and care settings V1 20TH AUGUST 2020
3. CEM/CMO/2020/043 LETTER DETAILING UPDATES TO CLEANING, TRAINING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING 24.12.2020