Cleaning and Disinfecting Against COVID-19 in Public Settings

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19.
- Frequently touched surfaces are most likely to be contaminated.
- Check the expiration date of products you use and always follow manufacturer’s instructions.

CLEAN FREQUENTLY TOUCHED SURFACES TWICE PER DAY

- In addition to routine cleaning, surfaces that have frequent contact with hands should be cleaned and disinfected twice per day and when visibly dirty.
- Examples include doorknobs, elevator buttons, light switches, toilet handles, counters, hand rails, touch screen surfaces and keypads.
- In addition to routine cleaning, check with your organization for any specific protocols for cleaning for COVID-19.

SELECT PRODUCTS

Cleaners

- Break down grease and remove organic material from the surface.

- Used separately before using disinfectants.
- Can be purchased with cleaner and disinfectant combined in a single product.

Disinfectants

- Have chemicals that kill most germs.
- Applied after the surfaces have been cleaned.
- Have a drug identification number (DIN).

Disinfectant Wipes

- Have combined cleaners and disinfectants in one solution.
- May become dry due to fast drying properties. Should be discarded if they become dry.
- Not recommended for heavily soiled surfaces. Prepare products for use where possible, use pre-mixed solution.
- Read and follow manufacturer’s instructions to:
  o properly prepare solution
  o allow adequate contact time for disinfectant to kill germs (see product label)
  o wear gloves when handling cleaning products including wipes
  o wear any other personal protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer

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