

## **Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures for COVID-19 (Laboratory Settings)**

### **Background**

Iowa State University (ISU) has a long, successful history of working safely with infectious and biohazardous materials. Concerns regarding the coronavirus and disease (COVID-19), has afforded a basic review of effective cleaning and disinfection procedures in the laboratory setting. The ISU Biosafety Manual is a key campus resource for the safe use of biohazardous materials and provides useful guidance on cleaning and disinfection procedures in the laboratory environment

<http://publications.ehs.iastate.edu/bsm/>

### **COVID-19**

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus (coronavirus) and is highly infectious. To address concerns and help answer questions this virus has precipitated, ISU has developed extensive FAQs located at

<https://web.iastate.edu/safety/updates/covid19>

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

Cleaning and disinfection in a laboratory must be completed by laboratory employees trained on cleaning and disinfection procedures.

Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as directed by the chemical disinfectant safety data sheet. At minimum, appropriate PPE for cleaning and disinfecting in a laboratory setting includes:

- Gloves (Nitrile)
- Eye protection (safety glasses or chemical goggles)
- Lab coat
- Optional:--if the cleaning area is extensive, consider additional protective body covering (e.g., full-body Tyvek, scrub suits, gowns/shoe covers or other equivalent protection) to aid decontamination and protect personal clothing

### **Disinfecting Products:**

Choosing the appropriate chemical disinfectant depends on the surface or item needing decontamination. Commonly used disinfection procedures/products are effective for the coronavirus (alcohol, bleach solutions, quat solutions, etc.). Refer to product labels or contact EH&S for guidance.

The [ISU Biosafety Manual](#) (BSM) contains information on a variety of options for disinfection in the laboratory environment beginning on page 42.

## **Cleaning Procedure:**

1. Post warning sign on laboratory that needs to be cleaned and disinfected.
2. Wait a minimum of 3 hours to allow settling of aerosols (Note: EH&S is recommending 24 hours for public areas. This reduced wait time considers the enhanced ventilation in laboratories).
3. Put on appropriate PPE
4. Using the chosen disinfectant:
  - a. Clean all frequently touched surfaces using cloth and an approved cleaner/disinfectant, including desks, tables, doorknobs, drawer pulls, computer keyboards and mice, and all other identified high-contact surfaces.
  - b. Lab personnel may mop floor using an approved disinfectant and mop.
5. Dispose of cleaning materials (i.e. cloth rags, paper towels) in regular garbage bag, close, and transport garbage to the nearest exterior building dumpster.
6. Follow disinfectant label to allow appropriate contact time and drying of disinfectant.
7. Remove PPE and wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.
8. PPE must be removed before leaving the laboratory where cleaning and disinfection procedures were completed. PPE must never be taken home. Lab coats, scrubs, gowns, etc. may be laundered using the university's existing laboratory laundering service.
9. Remove warning signage from laboratory entrance.