

Community Living

Protecting your community from known cases of COVID-19

Protect your staff by using electronic means of communication whenever possible.

Educate Your Staff

Train your staff to know the CDC recommendations for preventing transmission of coronavirus:

- + Social distancing by at least 6 feet.
- + Wash hands frequently.
- + Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when appropriate for the circumstance.
- + Post signs in common areas and around the community to remind staff and residents how to protect themselves from coronavirus.
- + Visit the CDC website for specific information, posters and more regarding coronavirus.
- + Refer staff members to specific CDC website links.

What We Know

According to Harvard Health Publishing and Harvard Medical School:

- + The coronavirus can stay airborne for up to 3 hours.
- + The coronavirus can survive up to 4 hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to 2-3 days on plastic and stainless steel.

Soap

NBC News reports Richard Sachleben, an organic chemist and member of the American Chemist Society, says soaps are detergents that not only remove germs from surfaces, but also kill them. Soap and water break the virus down, causing it to fall apart, killing the virus.

Bleach

If bleach is used, wear chemical resistant gloves, safety glasses and a plastic apron to protect yourself. The CDC's formula for a bleach solution is 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) of bleach in 1 gallon of water. For a smaller amount, mix 4 teaspoons of bleach with 1 quart of water.

Hydrogen Peroxide

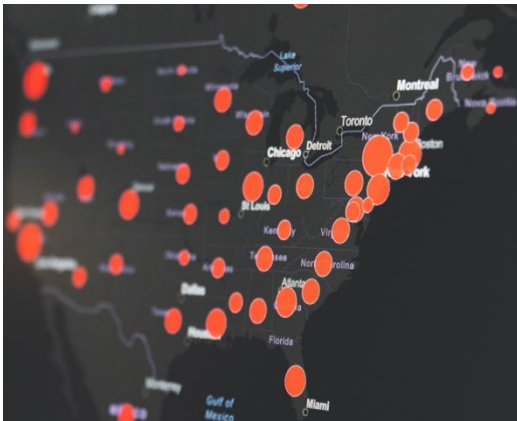
Hydrogen Peroxide should not be diluted if it is used to clean and disinfect. Wear chemical resistant gloves, safety glasses and a plastic apron to protect yourself.

Vinegar

There is no evidence to show that vinegar is effective against the coronavirus.

Cleaning Technique is Important

To decontaminate a surface, you cannot just swipe it, you must scrub it and wipe away the grime. It is important to use enough of the cleaning solution and disinfectant and then give it time to work by letting it dry on the surface.



Contact your attorney to determine what you may ask the resident.

What information does the management staff have about the resident?

- + Has the resident traveled to/from a foreign country or a US city that has a high number of COVID-19 cases?
- + Is the resident a healthcare worker?

If there is already community spread, these questions may be less relevant.

Questions to help determine next steps for your community.

- + Has the resident's illness been confirmed by tests?
- + Has the resident notified local health authorities?
- + Has the resident been in close contact with other residents or staff in the previous 2 weeks? Have they informed those residents of their illness?
- + Has the resident notified family members, friends, work relations about their illness?
- + How can the community assist them in their time of need?
- + Suggest that they may want to place a sign on their door to protect neighbors. (Confirm with your legal counsel.)
- + Warn staff members that this resident has COVID 19. Remind them of the required protections.
- + Inform staff of how to handle communication and interaction with anyone who has COVID – 19.
- + Purchase personal protective equipment suitable for entering the unit as necessary such as:
 - o Butyl or chemical resistant gloves
 - o Tyvek suit with hood
 - o Safety glasses
 - o Face shield
 - o Shoe covers
- + Whenever possible, utilize electronic means of communication to organize staff members and to give specific instructions for daily briefings and the next steps that will be taken.

If you choose to hire an outside company to perform services for your community, remember to require certificates of insurance (COI) that meet your insurer's recommendations, and that the language of the contract and the COI are in agreement.

This document is not intended to be exhaustive nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as legal advice. Readers should contact legal counsel for legal advice.