

Interim Guidance for Household Disinfection of Monkeypox Virus

May 27, 2022

This document provides general guidance on cleaning and disinfecting non-healthcare settings such as homes and cars where an individual with monkeypox spent significant time. Individuals should consult their public health department before beginning cleaning and disinfection for help in the safe implementation of this guidance and with any applicable federal, state, and local regulations and guidance. CDC provides separate [guidance for use in a healthcare setting](#).

Personal Protective Equipment

To protect from monkeypox, wear the following PPE:

- Disposable gloves
- Disposable gown*
or
Disposable coverall*
- Disposable shoe coverings*
- Respiratory protection ([NIOSH-approved N95 filtering facepiece respirator](#) or better)
- Eye protection (goggles or a face shield that covers the front and sides of the face)

The [Sequence for Donning and Removing Personal Protective Equipment](#) factsheet provides directions on how to properly put on and take off.

*When a disposable gown or coverall or shoe coverings are not available, standard clothing and shoes that fully cover the skin can be used. Clothing and shoes should be immediately removed after performing cleaning and disinfection and laundered according to recommendations below, and the individual should shower.

Disinfectant

Use an EPA-registered disinfectant with an emerging viral pathogens claim. You can find products with Emerging Viral Pathogens (EVPs) claims on [EPA's List Q](#). Follow all manufacturer directions for use, including concentration, contact time, and care and handling. Follow these steps for safe and effective disinfectant use:

- **Check that your product is EPA-registered:** Find the EPA registration number on the product. Then, check to see if it has an emerging viral pathogens claim.
- **Read the directions:** Follow the product's directions. Check "use sites" and "surface types" to make sure this is the right product for your surface. Next, read the "precautionary statements."
- **Pre-clean the surface:** Make sure to wash the surface with soap and water if the directions mention pre-cleaning or if the surface is visibly dirty. Dirt can keep the disinfectant from working.

- **Follow the contact time:** You can find the contact time in the directions. The surface should remain wet for the indicated contact time to ensure the product is effective. Reapply during contact time if necessary.

Cleaning and Disinfection

To minimize cross-contamination, clean and disinfect in the following order: laundry, hard surfaces, dishes, furniture, and carpet.

Laundry

Handle soiled laundry, such as bedding, towels, and personal clothing, according to standard practices, avoiding contact with lesion material that may be present on the laundry. Soiled laundry should never be shaken or handled in a manner that may spread infectious particles. Wash laundry using an EPA-registered disinfectant with an emerging viral pathogens claim intended for porous surfaces or laundry according to label instructions.

When in home laundry facilities (facilities not shared with other households) are not available, individuals should coordinate with the public health department to determine laundering locations.

Hard Surfaces

Clean and disinfect frequently touched hard surfaces using an EPA registered residential disinfectant with an emerging viral pathogens claim intended for hard nonporous surfaces according to label instructions. This includes frequently touched surfaces like tables, countertops, door handles, toilet flush handles, faucets, light switches, and floors. Do not dry dust or sweep surfaces as this may spread infectious particles.

Dishes

Wash soiled dishes and eating utensils in a dishwasher with detergent and hot water or by hand with warm water and dish soap.

Furniture and Carpet

Vacuum upholstered furniture and carpeted floors using a vacuum cleaner equipped with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. Do not vacuum furniture or carpet with a vacuum cleaner without a HEPA filter as this may spread infectious particles. Clean upholstered furniture and carpets that require removal of visible soil using commercially available cleaning products or professional steam cleaning. Individuals should consult their public health department if they have grossly soiled furniture.

Waste Disposal

Consult your public health department for directions on disposing of waste generated during the cleaning and disinfection process or disposable items that had been in contact with the patient.

Additional Information

For more information on cleaning and disinfection, see:

- [CDC: Guide F – Environmental Control of Smallpox Virus](#)
- [CDC: Sequence for Donning and Removing Personal Protective Equipment](#)

- [Public Health England: Monkeypox: Guidance for environmental cleaning and decontamination](#)