

Janitorial Safety Tip Sheet

A series of health and safety tips to prevent work-related injuries in the janitorial industry

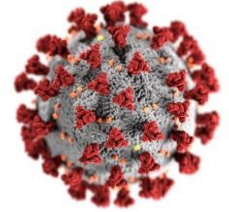


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Employers can help protect workers from COVID-19 – **by actively encouraging sick employees to stay home.**

Janitorial/custodial workers are on the front lines of helping the public contain the spread of COVID-19. Make sure they have the training and tools to do this job effectively. Below are some tips to keep in mind.



COVID-19 image courtesy of CDC Public Health Image Library, 2020.

Let janitorial / custodial workers know if they are going to be working in a location where an infected person has been, so they can take the necessary precautions to protect themselves, and can provide needed cleaning and disinfecting services.

- Allow sick employees to take leave without a doctor's note.
- Allow employees to stay home to care for sick or quarantined family members.
- Direct employees not come to work until they are free of fever and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours.
- Encourage temporary services to allow employees to use sick leave as needed.

• **Develop workplace training to maximize worker and public safety:**

- Instruct employees to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Provide soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer for all employees.
- Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles.
- Make sure all employees have been trained to use and have an adequate supply of all-purpose cleaners **and** disinfectants, when needed. Follow [the complete CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfection](#). These include but are not limited to:
 - Gloves, to protect them from chemicals as well as viruses on surfaces they are required to clean.
 - All-purpose cleaners – these remove dirt and grime, a necessary first step in cleaning, but they are not all disinfectants.
 - Disinfectants with ethyl alcohol (also called ethanol or just alcohol), isopropyl alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide are safer choices for your workers, but are also effective disinfectants.
 - **Remind your workers that different types of disinfectants require a different contact time – that is the amount of time they are needed to remain on a surface to kill germs, some products require up to 10 minutes to be effective.**
 - Routinely clean all frequently-touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. The virus may survive on surfaces for **up to 72 hours**.

- Have workers clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces frequently during the day. These include cash machine keypads, faucets, time clocks, doorknobs, hand-rails, remote controls, light switches, printers, phones, countertops if in a public or shared area, and other frequently-touched surfaces.
 - Refer to the [EPA list of disinfectants effective against this virus](#).
- Place posters that encourage [staying home when sick](#), [cough and sneeze etiquette](#), and [hand hygiene](#) at the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.

Additional Resources:

- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should **notify their supervisor** and refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct [a risk assessment of their potential exposure](#).
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, **employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure** to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Employees exposed to a co-worker with confirmed COVID-19 should refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct [a risk assessment of their potential exposure](#).
- The CDC has created an [Interim Guidance for Business and Employers page](#).