



# San Joaquin County

## Emergency Medical Services Agency



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EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2020-08 (Revised)

DATE: May 26, 2020

TO: All Prehospital Care Providers

FROM: Katherine Shafer, M.D., EMS Medical Director

SUBJ.: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disinfection Recommendations

The purpose of this memorandum is to share the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Interim Recommendations for US Households with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019. This memorandum is effective through the duration of the public health emergency, unless superseded or rescinded earlier.

We have received requests asking for recommendations on how to disinfect equipment and vehicles when cleaning solutions are unavailable. In the absence of commercial disinfectants you should consider following the instructions of the <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>, summarized below.

How to clean and disinfect:

### Surfaces

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be discarded after each cleaning. If reusable gloves are used, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other purposes. Consult the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfection products used. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
  - Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
    - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
      - 5 tablespoons (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup) bleach per gallon of water or

- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
  - Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely, or
  - Use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims (examples at [this link](#)) that are suitable for porous surfaces.

#### Clothing, towels, linens and other items that go in the laundry

- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from an ill person and then discard after each use. If using reusable gloves, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other household purposes. [Clean hands](#) immediately after gloves are removed.
  - If no gloves are used when handling dirty laundry, be sure to wash hands afterwards.
  - If possible, do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
  - Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
  - Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces. If possible, consider placing a bag liner that is either disposable (can be thrown away) or can be laundered.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, you may direct questions to me through Matthew R. Esposito, Prehospital Care Coordinator [mesposito@sjgov.org](mailto:mesposito@sjgov.org) or (209) 468-6818.