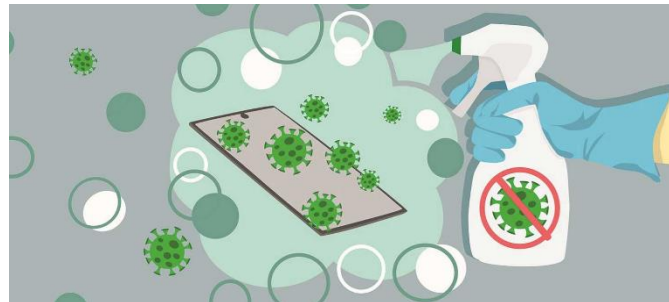


Everyone who is infected with COVID-19 sheds the virus in their saliva and aspirates and approximately 50% of carriers also shed the virus in their faeces.

It is important to note that the COVID-19 virus can sit on surfaces for a longer time than other viruses we have seen in the past. On the Ruby Princess cruise ship, active virus was found in the state room of an infected passenger 18 days after the passenger had been removed from the ship.

Cleaning to ensure there is no trace of virus can be quite difficult. There are at least 9 individual variables just for cleaning i.e. How often you clean, what type of cloth is used, what type of liquid is used, how many times you use the same cloth on each surface, etc. The problem is that if cleaning is not carried out effectively, the virus will be moved from surface to surface.

- wipe in one direction only
- change cloth regularly
- apply pressure when wiping
- apply enough disinfectant to the cloth
- use cloths that are in good condition
- clean regularly
- clean ALL of the surface




When using disinfectant, there are a couple of key points to remember to ensure that it effectively controls the virus:

- All surfaces that are regularly touched require disinfecting if they have been exposed to COVID-19, this includes soft furnishings such as chairs and couches, these items need to be disinfected to kill the surface virus and then follow by a hot water extraction i.e. steam cleaning.

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Maintaining High Cleaning Standards

The following points can assist in maintaining cleaning standards:

- Cleaning work areas as a preventative and routine measure instead of a reactive measure
 - Clean more thoroughly, not necessarily more often.
 - Concentrate on high touch and communal areas
 - Cleaners (both workplace and external contractors) are at a higher risk of potential exposure to COVID-19 as well as chemical related health effects due to changes from normal practices.
 - Contract cleaners may be the best option to clean a workplace that has been exposed to COVID-19 as they are trained, have experience with different levels of cleaning and are set up with the correct PPE for their work.
 - Ensure the cleaners remain diligent in their cleaning duties and personal protection by supporting and coaching cleaners and monitoring environments to make sure the quality remains high.
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- An illustration showing a person's hands wearing yellow gloves. The left hand holds a white spray bottle, and the right hand holds a yellow sponge. They are cleaning a surface. In the background, there are several grey, spiky virus particles, representing COVID-19.



It may be advantageous to have some cleaning carried out during work hours so that customers, workers and others have confidence that the areas they are in are clean and sanitised.

Chemical Use and Storage

Be careful when choosing chemicals, refer back to the manufacturer for information on active ingredients (if information cannot be sourced from the label or SDS).

Be cautious if mixing chemicals as they may not be compatible and may react with each other giving off potentially harmful fumes, the chemicals may also neutralise the disinfectant making the solution ineffective.

Ensure chemicals are stored in accordance with recommendations on the label, neutralisation may occur if chemicals are stored in the incorrect location i.e. In direct sunlight.

Mix chemicals just before use rather than storing mixed chemicals. All cleaning solutions should be prepared fresh before use.

Risk assessments may need to be reviewed for COVID-19 cleaning processes and other hazards that may present due to changes made.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Selection of PPE must be based on risk to workers health. Follow government advice and manufacturers recommendation or if needed, seek advice from a qualified occupational hygienist. If using respirators, ensure they meet Australian standard AS1715 and fit properly i.e. have a good seal at contact points and be from a reputable company to ensure quality.

Alert - Cleaning for COVID-19

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Workplace Risk Management Summary

Primary source of COVID-19 infection is from contact with droplets from sneezing, coughing, and talking

Risk management measures:

- Worker segregation
- Working from home
- Managing Symptomatic Persons
- Access Restrictions

Secondary source of COVID-19 infection is from direct and indirect contact with infected surfaces

Risk management measures:

- Hand washing/sanitising
- Avoiding hand to face contact
- Identify high touch and communal areas
- Proactive cleaning
- PPE



For more information and a range of resources to assist, visit

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources#fact-sheets>

Workplaces need to set and display guidelines regarding expectations around cleaning and personal hygiene.