



CDC RELEASES REOPENING GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES

“CAREFUL PLANNING IS KEY TO KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE”

By PFM Staff

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released detailed cleaning and disinfecting guidance as public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes prepare to reopen following shutdowns caused by the worldwide coronavirus outbreak.

“Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by cleaning and disinfection is an important part of reopening public spaces that will require careful planning,” CDC officials said in a public release. “Everyone also has a role in making sure our communities are as safe as possible to reopen and remain open.” The Atlanta-based organization said safe and successful reopening also strongly relies on public health strategies, social distancing, isolation, and other measures. The following information gives an overview of CDC guidance on reopening your business.

DEVELOP YOUR PLAN

Evaluate your business to determine what kinds of surfaces and materials make up that area. Most surfaces and objects will just need normal routine cleaning. Frequently touched surfaces and objects like light switches and door-knobs will need to be cleaned and then disinfected to further reduce the risk of germs on surfaces and objects.

- First, clean the surface or object with soap and water.
- Then, disinfect using an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#).
- If an EPA-approved disinfectant is unavailable, you can use 1/3 cup of bleach added to 1 gallon of water, or 70% alcohol solutions to disinfect. Do not mix bleach

or other cleaning and disinfection products together. Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours. Find additional information at [CDC’s website on Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).

You should also consider what items can be moved or removed completely to reduce frequent handling or contact from multiple people. Soft and porous materials, such as area rugs and seating, may be removed or stored to reduce the challenges with cleaning and disinfecting them. Find additional reopening guidance for cleaning and disinfecting in the [Reopening Decision Tool](#).

If your business has been unoccupied for seven days or more, it will only need your normal routine cleaning to reopen the area. This is because the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been shown to survive on surfaces longer than this time.

It is critical that your plan includes how to maintain a cleaning and disinfecting strategy after reopening. Develop a flexible plan with your staff or family, adjusting the plan as federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local guidance is updated and if your specific circumstances change.

IMPLEMENT YOUR PLAN

Once you have a plan, it’s time to take action. Read all manufacturer’s instructions for the cleaning and disinfection products you will use. Put on your gloves and other required personal protective equipment (PPE) to begin the

process of cleaning and disinfecting. Many product labels recommend keeping the surface wet for a specific amount of time. The label will also list precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product. Keep all disinfectants out of the reach of children.

MAINTAIN AND REVISE YOUR PLAN

[CDC provides tips](#) to reduce your exposure and risk of acquiring COVID-19. Reducing exposure to yourself and others is a shared responsibility. Continue to update your plan based on updated guidance and your current circumstances.

Surfaces frequently touched by multiple people, such as door handles, desks, phones, light switches, and faucets, should be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use. For example, certain surfaces and objects in public spaces, such as shopping carts and point of sale keypads, should be cleaned and disinfected before each use.

Make sure there is enough supply of gloves and appropriate PPE based on the label, the amount of product you will need to apply, and the size of the surface you are treating.

Maintain safe behavioral practices. We have all had to make significant behavioral changes to reduce the spread of COVID-19. To reopen, we will need to continue these practices:

- social distancing (specifically, staying six feet away from others when you must go into a shared space)
- frequently washing hands or use alcohol-based (at

least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available

- wearing cloth face coverings
- avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- staying home when sick
- cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces

It is also essential to change the ways we use public spaces to work, live, and play. We should continue thinking about our safety and the safety of others. To reduce your exposure to or the risk of spreading COVID-19 after reopening your business or facility, consider whether you need to

touch certain surfaces or materials. Consider wiping public surfaces before and after you touch them. These types of behavioral adjustments can help reduce the spread of COVID-19. There are other resources for [more information on COVID-19](#) and [how to prevent getting sick](#).

Another way to reduce the risk of exposure is to make long-term changes to practices and procedures. These could include reducing the use of porous materials used for seating, leaving some doors open to reduce touching by multiple people, opening windows to improve ventilation, or removing objects in common areas, like coffee creamer containers.

There are many other steps that businesses can put into place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect their staff and the public. More information can be found at CDC's [Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#). **PFM**

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