

# Custodial / Environmental Hygiene Coronavirus FAQs

AUGUST 10, 2021

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## 1. What standards and guidelines is UVA using to ensure that buildings are clean and disinfected?

UVA is using guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Governor's *Higher Education Reopening Guidance*, and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) along with housekeeping industry standards and best practices.

## 2. What does enhanced cleaning mean?

UVA's existing cleaning protocols contain highly prescriptive work elements for cleaning and disinfecting spaces based on industry standards and best practices combined with a comprehensive staff development and training program, an inspection and quality assurance program, and a metrics-driven continuous improvement program. UVA's cleaning program is industry certified and has won multiple awards. On June 11, 2020, UVA's custodial staff received the Effective and Innovative Practices Award from APPA, the premier professional organization for higher education facilities management.

Enhanced cleaning builds on this robust program and incorporates recommendations from the CDC, VDH, and the Governor's *Higher Education Reopening Guidance* document. These include disinfection using EPA-approved disinfectants, and frequent disinfection of surfaces and objects touched by multiple people.

## 3. How long does the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 live on surfaces?

A great deal of research has been done in this area, and the science is encouraging. According to the CDC, SARS-CoV-2 lasts only minutes to hours on porous surfaces, and virus on non-porous surfaces decreases by at least 99% within 72 hours. Furthermore, "studies suggest that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection via the fomite transmission route is low, and generally less than 1 in 10,000, which means that each contact with a contaminated surface has less than a 1 in 10,000 chance of causing an infection."

## 4. Will UVA provide sanitizer solution?

Yes, UVA will provide sanitizer stanchions at building main entrances, on floors, and near elevators, which will be refilled as needed by custodial staff.

## 5. Will the University or my department provide cleaning products such as disinfecting wipes, or do I need to bring these from home?

Initial stocks are being provided. Ongoing restocking and resupplying will be provided by departments.

## 6. What are "high touch" surfaces and when will these be disinfected?

The CDC includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc. in high traffic areas as high touch surfaces. These surfaces will be wiped throughout the day. In addition, the UVA community is encouraged to use disinfecting product before and after using these high touch surfaces.

## **7. How will classrooms be cleaned?**

Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily using *UVA's Enhanced Cleaning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures*. In addition, the UVA community is encouraged to use disinfecting product before and after using high touch surfaces.

## **8. How will residential halls be cleaned?**

Residential hall rooms and similar private spaces will be cleaned as they normally are by the individuals in those spaces. Public spaces will be cleaned per *UVA's Enhanced Cleaning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures*.

## **9. How will offices, laboratories and similar private spaces be cleaned?**

Offices, laboratories, and similar private spaces will be cleaned as they normally are by the individuals in those spaces. Public spaces will be cleaned per *UVA's Enhanced Custodial Cleaning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures*. Centralized trash and recycling are being implemented to the extent feasible to minimize the need for custodial staff to enter these spaces.

## **10. How will kitchenettes be cleaned?**

These spaces will be cleaned each day by the custodial staff per *UVA's Enhanced Cleaning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures*. However, because kitchenettes and similar centralized coffee, drink, and snack areas in buildings are in constant use with high turnover, individuals are encouraged to use disinfecting product before and after using appliances, coffee makers, refrigerators, sink fixtures, and microwaves.

## **11. What about recreational facilities and pools?**

IMRec-Sports facilities will be cleaned per *UVA's Enhanced Cleaning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures*, which include specific practices for gym equipment.

## **12. Does my department need to hire a supplemental cleaning company?**

No supplemental cleaning company is needed.

## **13. My building is small and only gets cleaned twice a week. What happens here?**

Smaller facilities as well as those with low intensity of use are serviced fewer than five days/week. Employees in these facilities are encouraged to use disinfecting product on high touch surfaces in between cleaning.

## **14. Who is going to clean plexiglass and acrylic panels that were installed to provide physical barriers?**

These will be cleaned during routine cleaning on a frequency similar to glass doors and interior windows.

## **15. What is UVA planning to do with outdoor spaces and surfaces?**

UVA will follow CDC guidance, which recommends normal routine cleaning and recommends against disinfection of parks, playgrounds, wooden surfaces (structures, benches, tables), groundcovers (mulch, sand), walks, and roadways.

## **16. What actions does the CDC recommend that I do to protect myself and my colleagues?**

The CDC recommends that you practice social distancing, wear facial coverings, avoid touching your face, and follow proper prevention hygiene, such as washing your hands frequently and using alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

## **17. How are leased spaces being cleaned?**

UVA recommends all property managers supporting University personnel adopt CDC cleaning protocols at a minimum although they may want to adopt measures equivalent to [UVA's Enhanced Cleaning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures](#).

## **18. What happens in a space when an employee, student, or visitor who has been in the space tests positive?**

By the time a person learns that they have tested positive and UVA FM is notified of that result, it is likely that the spaces the person testing positive occupied have already been cleaned and disinfected, sometimes multiple times. If this is the case, no special actions need to be taken as most spaces, including classrooms, are cleaned and disinfected daily following the [UVA Enhanced Cleaning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures](#), which incorporate industry standards and best practices following guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). This protocol specifies the use of EPA-approved products that are effective against the coronavirus for disinfecting spaces and emphasizes disinfecting high touch surfaces. For the very rare situation in which a person testing positive was in the space within the last 24 hours before we are notified, UVA FM has developed a protocol and trained staff on how to respond.

## **19. Will a space need to be shut down as a result of a person testing positive for COVID-19 occupying the space?**

The probability of a space needing to be closed is near zero due to the inherent time delay that occurs during the testing and notification process. In most cases routine cleaning and disinfection will have already occurred, meaning no additional action is required. Even in situations where cleaning has not been completed, the CDC has found that the risk of transmission from surface contact is extremely low, meaning only a brief period is needed for room ventilation.

## **20. What products will be provided in classroom buildings for disinfection?**

Stanchions containing sanitizer solution have been placed at high traffic locations in most classroom buildings, and UVA Custodial Services will refill as needed. While the CDC has determined that the risk of transmission from contaminated surfaces is extremely low, the UVA community is encouraged to use disinfecting product before and after using high touch surfaces.

## **21. How do Schools and business units obtain disinfecting products for private spaces and kitchenettes?**

UVA Procurement & Supplier Diversity Services can assist Schools and business units in procuring disinfecting products, materials and other COVID-19 supplies. Please refer to the [UVA Procurement & Supplier Diversity Services COVID-19 Supplies Guide](#).

## **22. How do I know when my building is cleaned?**

Please refer to the [Building Cleaning Schedule](#) document to find your building and its cleaning schedule.

## **23. My building is not on your list. Who do I contact to find out when my building is cleaned?**

Please contact the following individuals for questions concerning Academic facilities cleaned by departments other than Facilities Management such as Athletics, IMRec Sports, and the School of Continuing and Professional Studies located in Zehmer Hall. Please note that cleaning services in the University Hospital and Clinics as well as the West Complex are managed by UVA Health.

## **ZEHMER HALL**

Kathy Roy  
ksr2k@virginia.edu  
Office: 434-982-5282  
Cell: 434-996-0933

## **ATHLETICS**

Mike Doto  
md2aw@virginia.edu  
Cell: 609-410-0425

## **INTRAMURAL RECREATIONAL SPORTS**

Scott Reed  
sar9q@virginia.edu  
Office: 434-924-7773  
Cell: 540-818-6728

## **LEASED FACILITIES**

Contact the property manager for the specific facility.

## **RESOURCES AND REFERENCES**

### **1. CDC Background**

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) *Considerations for Institutes of Higher Education* lists the following information concerning the transmission of COVID-19:

- The coronavirus is spread mainly from person to person. Transmission occurs between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. The infected person may not be showing symptoms. Face coverings are highly effective in decreasing this person-to-person transmission.
- It **may** be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this has been shown to be extremely rare. Virtually all transmission is believed to be between people in close proximity to each other.

### **2. Relevant Links**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Higher-Education-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/environmental-cleaning/>

[https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973?query=featured\\_home](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973?query=featured_home)

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening\\_America\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html>