COVID-19 Resources for Public Works Operations

Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
Website & PDF Handout available, addressing:
  • How to clean and disinfect
  • Soft Surfaces (such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, etc)
  • Electronics
  • Laundry
  • Cleaning and disinfecting your building or facility if someone is sick
  • Additional Considerations for Employers

Sanitizing Public Spaces
Spray down benches, railings, seating areas and all touchable surfaces. High touch surfaces include: Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

SANITIZING SOLUTION recommended by the CDC:
To make a bleach solution, mix:
  5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) Bleach per gallon of water
  OR
  4 teaspoons Bleach per quart of water
Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used. Once sprayed, the solution is left to air dry, or leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.

Know the Difference Between Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sanitizing (CDC)
Flu viruses are relatively fragile, so standard cleaning and disinfecting practices are sufficient to remove or kill them. Always follow label directions on cleaning products and disinfectants. Wash surfaces with a general household cleaner to remove germs. Rinse with water and follow with an EPA-registered disinfectant to kill germs. Disinfection usually requires the product to remain on the surface for a certain period of time (e.g., letting it stand for 3 to 5 minutes).

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.
OSHA COVID-19 Control and Prevention
OSHA has developed this interim guidance to help prevent worker exposure to COVID-19.
General Guidance, Environmental Decontamination, Worker Training, Interim guidance for specific worker groups and their employers (including Solid Waste & Wastewater Management).

Municipal Waste
Workers and employers should manage municipal (e.g., household, business) solid waste with potential or known COVID-19 contamination like any other non-contaminated municipal waste. Use typical engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE, such as puncture-resistant gloves and face and eye protection, to prevent worker exposure to the waste streams (or types of wastes), including any contaminants in the materials, they manage. Such measures can help protect workers from sharps and other items that can cause injuries or exposures to infectious materials.

APWA Coronavirus and the Public Works Community
Resources and information for Public Works as First Responders; Can also join the APWA Public Works COVID-19 Discussion Board

What Steps Have Counties Taken to Address Coronavirus? (NACo)
Mitigation strategies, Containment, Community Mitigation, County Employees, etc.

Water and COVID-19 FAQs
Information about Drinking Water, Recreational Water and Wastewater

Water Environment Federation: Coronavirus
Currently, there is no evidence that coronavirus survives the disinfection process for drinking water and wastewater. No coronavirus-specific protections are recommended for employees involved in wastewater management operations, including those at wastewater treatment facilities.

EPA Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting

Recommendations for Cleaning and Disinfecting During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Coronavirus Guidance for Local Agency Employees
Delaware Center for Transportation (LTAP)

Nat'l League of Cities - COVID-19: Local Action Tracker