



## NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Interim Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Hotels Providing Isolation and Quarantine Housing

April 1, 2020

There may be situations where hotels or motels are needed to provide housing for people who have potential exposure to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Quarantine is needed for a period of up to 14 days to observe an individual to ensure they do not develop symptoms. Sometimes housing is needed to isolate individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19, but are not ill enough to be in the hospital.

Early reports suggest person-to-person transmission most commonly happens during close proximity (less than 6 feet) to a person infected with COVID-19. Transmission occurs primarily through respiratory droplets produced when the infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby or may be inhaled into the lungs of those within close proximity. The contribution of small airborne particles that can be breathed in, sometimes called aerosols or droplet nuclei, if someone is in close proximity is currently uncertain. However, airborne transmission from person-to-person over long distances or through ventilation systems is unlikely.

Preventing transmission of respiratory pathogens in hotel and motel settings requires cleaning and disinfection procedures, separation of sleeping quarters and bathroom facilities, and avoiding congregate and shared spaces in the hotel.

#### Recommendations:

##### Educate Employees

- ❑ Educate employees on proper use of personal protective equipment, cleaning chemicals and the hazards, and OSHA bloodborne pathogens standards.
  - ❑ Useful information can be found on the CDC website
    - <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/index.html>
    - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
  - ❑ Employers should develop policies for worker protection and provide training to all cleaning staff on-site prior to beginning work. Training should include:
    - An understanding of when to use personal protective equipment (PPE)
    - What PPE is necessary and why
    - How to properly don (put on), use and doff (take off) PPE
    - How to properly dispose of PPE

- ❑ **Keep employees informed** of the actions the facility is taking to protect them, answer their questions, and explain how they can protect themselves and others.
- ❑ Educate employees on the symptoms of COVID-19 and instruct them to **report to management** if they develop symptoms.

### **Promote Good Hand Hygiene**

- ❑ Ensure employees know how to practice hand hygiene and have the opportunity to do so.
- ❑ Employees should perform hand hygiene often including immediately after removing PPE by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer containing 60%-95% alcohol may be used if soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty.
- ❑ Consider posting signs reminding guests to wash hands.
- ❑ Place **alcohol-based hand rub** (containing at least 60% alcohol) in easily accessible areas for employees and guests to use.
- ❑ Make sure tissues are available and all sinks have soap and paper towels.

### **Limit Guest Activities During Period of Quarantine or Isolation**

- ❑ Restrict guests in quarantine or isolation from using communal space and equipment, including ice machines, communal bathrooms, lobbies, etc.
- ❑ Food should be provided in single-service packages, and food being delivered should be left at the door and the guest notified that food has arrived to minimize interaction between staff and guest.
- ❑ All reusable glassware, plates, utensils, etc. should be removed from the room if possible, prior to the guest entering the room, to minimize items inside room that must be disinfected once room is vacant.
- ❑ Provide individual cleaning supplies for each room so that the guests can clean rooms themselves (tissues, paper towels, cleaners, EPA-registered disinfectants)
- ❑ Personal trash from guest rooms should be bagged and placed outside door for pickup by cleaning staff.
- ❑ Soiled linens should be bagged and placed outside door for pickup by cleaning staff.
- ❑ Implement the following procedures for cleaning staff when handling trash or laundry:
  - Wear disposable gloves and gowns when handling picking up laundry and removing trash
  - Changing gloves when moving from one room or area to another
  - Any hard surfaces such as laundry carts or counters where trash or soiled linen were stored should be cleaned and then disinfected using an EPA-registered disinfectant (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>)
  - Once gloves have been removed, staff should perform hand hygiene immediately by washing hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.

## Clean Room After a Quarantine or Isolation Guest Vacates

- Rooms that have been vacated should be left closed until proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures can be completed.
- Vacant rooms should be left for at least 24 hours before staff enter for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect all common touch surfaces in the room, including doorknobs, light switches, phones, bathroom fixtures, tables, chairs, keyboards, tablets, remotes, etc.)
- Soft surfaces such as carpets, bedding, drapes, etc. should be cleaned to remove visible contamination. Launder all soft surfaces such as bedding, curtains, etc. if possible.
- All hard surfaces in rooms that have been vacated should be cleaned and disinfected using the following procedures:
  - Don (put on) appropriate PPE before cleaning, including disposable gown and gloves
  - Bring all supplies into the room at one time and before cleaning begins
  - Clean all surfaces first with a detergent or cleaning chemical, following manufacturer's instructions
  - Rinse surfaces before applying an EPA registered disinfectant effective against coronaviruses. Follow manufacturer's label instructions for disinfectant, including contact time needed.
  - Avoid application methods that produce aerosols or generate splash.

## Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Cleaning

### Donning (Putting on):

- Perform hand hygiene** before putting on any PPE
- General approach to putting on this PPE combination:
  - First put on the gown
  - Then put on the gloves

### Doffing (Taking off):

- Consider performing hand hygiene** using an alcohol-based hand rub with gloves on prior to removing any PPE
- General approach to removing this PPE:
  - First remove the gloves
  - Then remove the gown
- Remove all PPE** at doorway.
- Perform hand hygiene** after removing PPE