



Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance During Monkeypox for Homes, Workplaces, Schools and Other Facilities

Monkeypox can spread by touching surfaces or items that have been in contact with the rash or sores of someone who has the virus, or breathing in respiratory droplets from someone while in very close contact for a prolonged period of time.

The following guidance is for homes, workplaces, schools and other facilities. For guidance for health care settings, visit [cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control.html](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control.html) and click on **Infection Control in Healthcare Settings**.

Continue Routine Cleaning

Maintain your usual cleaning practices.

Keep Hands Clean

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Employers and school and facility managers should keep restrooms stocked with soap, paper towels and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Cleaning After a Confirmed Monkeypox Case

Additional cleaning is only needed if someone who is confirmed to have monkeypox (they have a positive monkeypox test result) was at your home, workplace, school or facility while they had symptoms. For more information on monkeypox symptoms, visit [nyc.gov/monkeypox](https://www.nyc.gov/monkeypox) and click on **Symptoms**.

The monkeypox virus can survive on surfaces for a long time (especially in dark, cool and low-humidity environments) and possibly longer on soft surfaces (such as upholstered furniture and cloth towels). Many disinfectants can be used against the monkeypox virus. For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of cleaning products and disinfectants, visit [bit.ly/epa-disinfectants-list](https://www.epa.gov/bit.ly/epa-disinfectants-list).

What To Wear While Cleaning or Handling Waste

While cleaning or handling waste, wear clothing that fully covers your skin, disposable gloves, and an N95 or KN95 respirator that covers your mouth and nose.

Waste Disposal

People who have monkeypox should throw their garbage into their own, dedicated trash can, which should be lined with a trash bag.

Workplaces that routinely handle medical waste should place all cleaning-related waste in a sealable trash bag and dispose of it with their regular medical waste. Workplaces that do **not** routinely handle medical waste should place all cleaning-related waste in a sealable trash bag, place it in another trash bag and throw it away in the general trash.

Cleaning Before Using Disinfectants

Use wet cleaning methods to avoid spreading infectious particles. Do not dry-dust or sweep surfaces.

- Clean floors, surfaces and frequently touched objects, such as door handles and light switches, thoroughly with soap and water or detergent (to remove soil and debris) before using disinfectants.
- Always follow the instructions on cleaning product and disinfectant labels for safe and effective use.

Disinfection of Hard Surfaces and Objects

Hard surfaces and objects include tables, desks, door handles, toilet flush handles, faucets, light switches and toys.

- Use disinfectants from the EPA's list on hard surfaces and objects. Follow directions for contact time and use.
- Use products in well-ventilated areas.
- Do not mix disinfectants. Never mix ammonia with bleach.

Soft Surfaces, Carpets and Upholstery

- Wash any items that can be laundered (such as pillows and blankets) and may have been used by someone who has monkeypox. For more information on how to safely wash laundry, visit on.nyc.gov/monkeypox-laundry or on.nyc.gov/monkeypox-commercial-laundry (for laundromats, dry cleaners and laundry services).
- People who have monkeypox should limit their direct contact with soft and porous surfaces that cannot be laundered while they are sick. Place a cover over soft and porous surfaces that can be removed and laundered or thrown away.
- Steam any upholstered furniture used by people who have monkeypox.

For more information, visit nyc.gov/monkeypox.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.

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