



Guidance for How To Handle Laundry During Monkeypox for Commercial Settings

The following guidance is for laundromats, dry cleaners and laundry services.

Monkeypox is a contagious disease caused by the monkeypox virus. The virus is most often spread through direct contact with a rash or sores of someone who has the virus. The virus can also spread by contact with clothing, bedding or other items used by people who have monkeypox. **Special precautions should be taken when handling other people's laundry in case any items have the virus on them.**

Regular laundry detergents and dry-cleaning solvents can be used to clean clothing and remove the monkeypox virus. Steam cleaning for specialized items, such as costumes, can be used. Once laundry is properly cleaned, there is no longer a risk of spreading the virus by the laundry.

Use personal protective equipment as follows:

- Wear a well-fitting face mask (preferably an N95 or KN95 mask) that covers your nose and mouth.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry.
- Wear a disposable or washable covering over your clothes, such as a health care provider exam gown, when handling dirty laundry.
- Throw away your gloves and covering or gown (if not washable) after clothes are in the washing machine or dry-cleaning machine.

You do not need to wear gloves or a covering or gown when handling clean laundry.

When cleaning laundry:

- If items are delivered in a washable bag, wash the bag with the dirty laundry.
- Avoid shaking dirty laundry. If you need to move it, such as while spot cleaning, gently roll it over instead of flipping it.
- Gently put items in the washing machine or cleaning machine.
- Use hot water or the highest temperature setting.
- Use regular detergent. You do not have to use chlorine or color-safe bleach.
- Wipe the outside of the machine and any hard surfaces the dirty clothes may have touched using a disinfectant wipe.
- Remove gloves and covering or gown before touching clean laundry, including before drying it.
- Wipe down surfaces used for folding before use with a disinfectant wipe.

For a list of cleaning and disinfection products, visit [epa.gov/pesticide-registration/disinfectants-emerging-viral-pathogens-evps-list-q](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/disinfectants-emerging-viral-pathogens-evps-list-q).