



281 LaClair Street,  
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TTY Relay 711

Aug 10, 2022

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Guidance for those working with objects or materials which are likely to carry infection, such as clothes, utensils, bedding and furniture.**

The following CDC guidance addresses some considerations for those working with objects or materials which are likely to carry infection, such as clothes, utensils, bedding and furniture. (i.e. Hotel staff, Daycare providers, AirBnB owners, Maid services, etc)

During the infectious period of time, body fluids, respiratory secretions, and lesion material from people with monkeypox can contaminate the environment. Poxviruses can survive in linens, clothing and on environmental surfaces, particularly when in dark, cool, and low humidity environments.

#### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- If cleaning and disinfection is done by someone other than the person with monkeypox, that person should wear, at a minimum, disposable medical gloves and a respirator or well-fitting mask.
- Standard clothing that fully covers the skin should be worn, and then immediately laundered according to recommendations below.
- Hand hygiene should be performed using an ABHR, or soap and water if ABHR is unavailable.
- Focus on disinfecting items and surfaces that were in direct contact with the skin of the person with monkeypox, or often in the presence of the person with monkeypox, during isolation. If unsure, disinfect.
- Do not dry dust or sweep as this may spread infectious particles.
  - Wet cleaning methods are preferred such as disinfectant wipes, sprays, and mopping.
  - Vacuuming is acceptable using a vacuum with a high-efficiency air filter. If not available, ensure the person vacuuming wears a well-fitting mask or respirator.
- Clean and disinfect household in the following order:
  1. General waste containment
    1. Collect and contain in a sealed bag any soiled waste such as bandages, paper towels, food packaging, and other general trash items.
  2. Laundry
    1. Gather contaminated clothing and linens before anything else in the room is cleaned. Do not shake the linens as this could spread infectious particles.
  3. Hard surfaces and household items
  4. Upholstered furniture and other soft furnishing
  5. Carpet and flooring
  6. Waste disposal

#### **Laundry**

- Handle soiled laundry according to standard practices, avoiding contact with contaminants from the rash that may be present on the laundry.
- Soiled laundry should never be shaken or handled in a manner that may spread infectious particles.
- In-home laundry facilities:
  - Transfer soiled laundry items to be laundered in an impermeable container or bag that can be disinfected afterwards. Alternatively, a fabric bag may be used that can also be laundered along with the soiled items.
  - Wash laundry in a standard washing machine with detergent, following label instructions. Laundry sanitizers may be used but are not necessary.
- In-home laundry facilities not available:



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- When in-home laundry facilities (facilities not shared with other households) are not available, individuals should coordinate with their local public health department to determine appropriate laundering options.

#### **Hard Surfaces**

- This includes surfaces like tables, countertops, door handles, toilet flush handles, faucets, light switches, and floors.
- Include interior surfaces of refrigerator, freezer, other appliances, interior cabinet spaces, or drawers if they have been accessed by the person with monkeypox.
- Items and surfaces within the home that have likely not been in contact with the person while sick with monkeypox do not need to be disinfected.
  - This includes clothing and items in drawers or boxes that have not been in contact with, or in the direct presence of the person with monkeypox.
- Wash soiled dishes and eating utensils in a dishwasher with detergent and hot water or by hand with hot water and dish soap.

#### **Upholstered Furniture, Carpet and Soft Furnishing**

- If the person with monkeypox had direct skin contact and/or excessive drainage of fluids from rashes onto soft furnishings, such as upholstered furniture, carpets, rugs, and mattresses, steam cleaning can be considered. Discuss with state or local health authorities for further guidance.
- If the person with monkeypox had minimal contact with soft furnishings, disinfect the surface with a surface-appropriate disinfectant.

#### **Waste Disposal**

- The person with monkeypox should use a dedicated, lined trash can in the room where they are isolating.
  - Any gloves, bandages, or other waste and disposable items that have been in direct contact with skin should be placed in a sealed plastic bag, then thrown away in the dedicated trash can.
  - The person with monkeypox or other household members should use gloves when removing garbage bags and handling and disposing of trash.
- If professional cleaning services are used, treat and/or dispose of waste in accordance with applicable state, local, tribal, and territorial laws and regulations for waste management.

To find additional information related to the Monkeypox virus please go to the Coos Health & Wellness website or call 541-266-6700

***Dr. Eric Gleason MS***

***Deputy Director***

*Pronouns: He/Him/His*

**Coos Health & Wellness**

Together, inspiring healthier communities

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