

Cleaning Guidance for General Laboratories in Response to COVID-19

Revised: March 19, 2022

This guidance document provides recommendations on cleaning and disinfecting laboratory areas. It is aimed at minimizing the transmission of COVID-19. These recommendations will be updated as additional information becomes available.

General Recommendations for Routine Surface Cleaning

When entering all spaces, employees should:

- Don the following PPE prior to entering:
 - Safety glasses or goggles (if applicable)
 - Face covering (avoid touching face) (strongly recommended for indoor spaces)
- Practice situational awareness, immediately report potential exposures to supervisors;
- Disposable gloves should only be used before and after handling chemicals that require gloves

Before leaving laboratory, employees should:

1. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, as soon as possible. Or, if hands are not visibly soiled and not recently in contact with chemicals that should be rinsed off, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used to clean hands.

Routine Surface Cleaning

EH&S recommends using disinfectant for normal cleaning procedures **AND** following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.

Employees should follow instructions for appropriate product concentration, application method, and contact time, and increase the frequency of cleaning for frequently touched surfaces to at least once a day and as needed. If surfaces are visibly dirty, wash with soap and water to remove dirt, and then follow with a disinfectant.

Frequently touched surfaces include:

- Countertops, Tabletops, and railings
- Laboratory fixtures
- Media/reagent bottles
- Sashes of all ventilated cabinets (BSC, CFH)
- Equipment handles

- Doorknobs
- Light switches & plates
- Handles
- Desks and chairs
- Phones
- Keyboards and mouse (pointing devices)
- Faucets and sinks
- And all other **commonly touched** surfaces.

Cleaning frequency: It is recommended that you clean your laboratory space at least once a day.

For Electronics: Use alcohol-based wipes with at least 70% alcohol. When not available, spray disinfectant on a paper towel and wipe down surfaces.

EH&S recommends using EPA-approved disinfectants for use against COVID-19:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>

PPE Use as Part of Research Operations

Continue wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as identified in your lab research Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs), including the appropriate glove type, and eye protection.

If you have a suspected or confirmed positive COVID-19 case:

Notify Human Resources via UCI's Coronavirus Response Center at (949) 824-9918, email covid19@uci.edu, or report the case via the HR website: <https://hr.uci.edu/disaster-relief/report-known-cases.php>

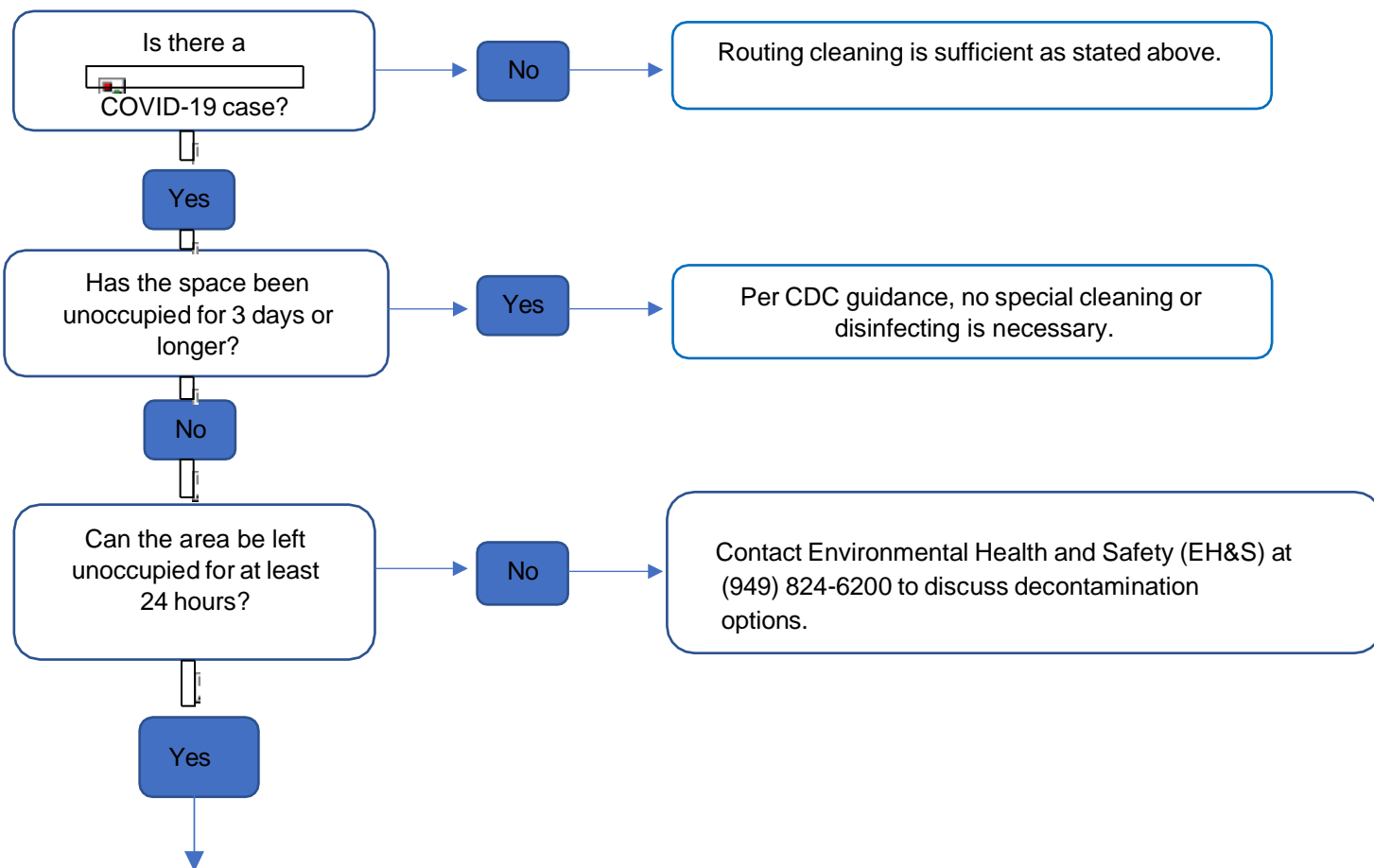
To ensure cleaning of suspected or confirmed positive COVID-19 case:

Contact FM Services desk at (949) 824-5444 or at fm-servicedesk@uci.edu to submit a request to clean and disinfect the space. FM will coordinate with EHS to convene staff to determine the scope of the cleaning and disinfecting. EHS will provide clearance prior to any cleaning and disinfecting work begins. EHS will consult with the department/unit on decontamination strategy and next steps. If the area cannot be safely cleaned by UCI staff, EH&S will schedule a 3rd party vendor to decontaminate the area.

The space should be left unoccupied and entry barricaded for at least 24 hours after initial notification (any exceptions to this requirement must be coordinated with EH&S). After 3 days or longer, per the CDC, no special cleaning or disinfecting is necessary if the space is left unoccupied.

Contact EHS at (949) 824-6200 or at safety@uci.edu for additional assistance.

Follow the flowchart to request COVID-19 disinfection and cleaning:



Contact FM Services desk at (949) 824-5444 or at fm-servicedesk@uci.edu to submit a request to clean and disinfect the space. FM and EH&S will evaluate the area to determine the scope of cleaning.

For laboratory workspace, FM will contact EH&S for clearance prior to disinfection and cleaning. EH&S will consult with department/unit on decontamination strategy and next steps.

COVID-19 Resources:

[UCI website](#), [UCI EH&S](#), [CDC website](#), [OC Health Care Agency website](#)