



COVID-19: Guidance for Aircraft Cleaning

Revision Number: 2020.1-Original

Effective Date: 3/26/2020

1. Purpose

This document summarizes [guidance provided by the CDC](#) for the cleaning and disinfecting of aircraft amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you are sick, DO NOT come to work. Encourage others to do the same.

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19, seek **medical attention immediately**. Emergency warning signs include*:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

2. Basic Facts

Coronavirus Infectious Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It has spread from China to many other countries around the world, including the United States.

3. Aircraft Cleaning

3.1- Of Aircraft with No Symptomatic Passengers

- Where no symptomatic passenger(s) have been identified during or immediately after the flight follow routine operating procedures for cleaning aircraft, managing solid waste, and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).

3.2- Of Aircraft with Symptomatic Passengers

- Where symptomatic passenger(s) are identified during or immediately after the flight, routine cleaning procedures should be followed **AND ENHANCED CLEANING PROCEDURES SHOULD ALSO BE USED AS FOLLOWS**
 - Clean porous (soft) surfaces (e.g., cloth seats, cloth seat belts) at the seat of the symptomatic passenger(s) and within 6 feet (2 meters) of the symptomatic passenger(s) in all directions.
 - Clean porous (soft) surfaces (e.g. seat covers and carpet) by removing visible contamination if present and using appropriate cleaners that are compatible with aircraft surfaces and components in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. For items that can be laundered, use the warm setting and dry items completely on high heat.



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- Clean non-porous (hard) surfaces (e.g., leather or vinyl seats) at the seat of the symptomatic passenger(s) and within 6 feet (2 meters) of the symptomatic passenger(s) in all directions, including: armrests, plastic and metal parts of the seats and seatbacks, tray tables, seat belt latches, light and air controls, cabin crew call button, overhead compartment handles, adjacent walls, bulkheads, windows and window shades, and individual video monitors.
 - Clean non-porous (hard) surfaces with disinfectant products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims that are expected to be effective against the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) and ensure these products are compatible with aircraft surfaces and components. All products should be used according to label instructions (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, PPE).
- Clean lavatories used by the symptomatic passenger(s), including: door handle, locking device, toilet seat, faucet, washbasin, adjacent walls, and counter.
- Properly dispose of any items that cannot be cleaned (e.g., pillows, passenger safety placards, and other similar items as described below).

4. Recommended PPE during Enhanced Cleaning

- Disposable gloves that are recommended by the manufacturer of the disinfectant should be worn.
- Disposable gowns should be worn while cleaning the cabin and lavatories.
- If splashing is possible, eye protection, such as a faceshield or goggles and facemask may be required according to the manufacturer's label.

4.1 - General Recommendations During Enhanced Cleaning Process

- Cleaning crews should not board the plane until all travelers have disembarked.
- Ventilation systems should be kept running while cleaning crews are working aboard the airplane.
- If visible contamination (e.g., a bodily substance such as blood or bodily fluids) is present, routine aircraft operator cleaning procedures should be followed based on blood or body substance spill management according to OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen Standard [29 CFR 1910.1030](#).
- Aircraft operators should ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace in accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, [29 CFR 1910.1200](#).
- Aircraft operators should train ground and cleaning crews on and require that crew members demonstrate an understanding of when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE.
- After doffing (taking off) PPE, cleaning staff should immediately clean hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Aircraft operators should consider providing alcohol-based hand sanitizer to cleaning staff for their personal use.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures (e.g., contact with blood or body fluids without wearing appropriate PPE) to their supervisor. *(continued on next page)*



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- Cleaning staff should dispose of PPE and other disposable items used in cleaning following the aircraft operator's routine procedures. Note that all waste from international flights will also fall under jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
- Ground crews assigned to wastewater management operations should follow routine procedures.
- Employers should educate workers to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 and provide instructions on what to do if they develop symptoms.
- Cleaning staff should immediately notify their supervisor if they develop symptoms of COVID-19.