

COVID-19 cleaning guidance in care homes – adapted for use in the dental setting

Deep cleaning is a more enhanced programme of environmental cleaning, which compliments the routine daily cleaning. It includes the thorough cleaning of all surfaces, floors, soft furnishings and re-useable equipment either within the whole environment or in a particular area,

- The deep clean must only be performed by staff who have been trained in the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and in line with the current Public Health England (PHE) and national guidance.
- Application of the national colour coding to the dental setting. All cleaning items, e.g. cloths, mops, buckets, aprons, should be colour coded.
 - Red – bathrooms (including floors), showers, toilets, basins
 - Blue – general areas, such as staff room, reception area, offices, corridors and waiting room
 - Green – kitchen and food storage areas
 - Yellow – Dental surgeries
- New colour coded mop heads should be used for each room and disposed of after use.
- The golden rule for cleaning is to always work from the cleanest area, toward the dirtiest area and move from top to bottom, covering all surfaces in a 'S' shaped pattern, taking care not to go over the same area twice. This will greatly reduce the risk of cross contamination.
- Level 2 PPE should always be worn: gloves, fluid resistant (type IIR) surgical mask, disposable apron and full-face visor¹.
- Cleaning and decontamination of equipment and the environment must be performed using either:
 - a combined detergent/disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm available chlorine (av.cl.));
 - or
 - a general-purpose neutral detergent in a solution of warm water followed by a disinfectant solution of 1,000ppm av.cl.².
 - alternative cleaning agents/disinfectant products may be used with agreement of the local IPC Team/HPT².
- a disinfectant agent such as a solution of chlorine at 0.1% or 1000ppm or an equivalent disinfectant effective against viruses, bacteria and fungi to EN standard 14476 for viricidal activity should be used¹.
- Warm water and detergent, should be changed for each episode of cleaning and when moving from one room or environment to another, and when water is visibly dirty or contaminated, followed by a freshly made chlorine-based disinfectant solution,

(Note: Chlorine-based disinfectants may damage soft furnishings, carpets and furniture. Therefore, detergent and warm water, steam cleaner or carpet shampoo machine, should be used as appropriate.)

- Medical devices and equipment should be managed as per manufacturer's instructions - decontamination processes for equipment and the environment following dental treatment should follow country specific guidance¹.

Before entering the room

- Collect all cleaning equipment and appropriate waste bags. See 'Handling waste during COVID-19' below. Cleaning trollies should not enter the room.
- Donning (putting on) PPE as per PHE guidance.

Upon completion of the deep clean

- Doffing (removing) PPE as per PHE guidance before leaving the room.
- Ensure all PPE is disposed of in double bagged, sealed waste bags
- Dedicated or disposable equipment (such as mop heads, cloths) must be used for environmental decontamination².
- Re-usable equipment (such as mop handles, buckets) must be decontaminated after use with a chlorine-based disinfectant or locally agreed disinfectant² and stored clean and dry between use¹.

Handling of waste during COVID-19

- All waste must be double bagged, sealed and discarded into the clinical waste stream.

Fumigation and fogging

The use of fumigation and fogging devices with disinfection chemicals are not advised for routine cleaning and or disinfection against COVID-19 and should only be considered in healthcare settings when multi-drug resistant organisms cannot be eradicated. This must always be under specialist infection prevention and control advice¹.

Procedure for a deep clean				
	Task	Instructions	Signature	Date
1	Consumable items	Dispose of all consumables, e.g. PPE, plastic cups, paper towels, tissues and food into appropriate double bagged, sealed bags.		
2	Windows	Open all windows to facilitate air changes, drying and prevent		

		build-up of fumes from chlorine-based disinfectant		
3	Re-useable equipment e.g. chairs, keyboards, digital thermometers and in the kitchen environment; kettle and fridge handles, cutlery and crockery	Clean and disinfect portable chairs before removing from room. Equipment should be cleaned as per manufacturer's instructions and not be returned until the room has been disinfected.		
4	Light switches, door handles	Clean and disinfect		
5	Windows	Clean and disinfect		
6	Furniture, surfaces such as reception desk/ staffroom table	Clean and disinfect In kitchen areas clean and disinfect preparation surfaces, chairs. In surgeries the dental chair should be cleaned as per manufacturer instructions		
7	Radiators	If applicable, remove radiator cover and/or clean and disinfect		
8	Skirting boards	Clean and disinfect		
10	Carpets (if present for example office)	Vacuum followed by steam cleaning/carpet cleaning machine (with HEPA filter if available)		
11	Flooring - washable	Clean and disinfect		
14	Toilets	Clean and disinfect all surfaces, e.g. soap dispensers, paper towel holder, shelving, shower (if applicable) sink, taps, toilet handle, raised toilet seat, toilet, toilet roll holder, waste bin. Ensure you work from the cleanest area to the dirtiest area.		
15	Restock	Restock rooms with consumables e.g. paper towels, PPE		
16	Documentation	Complete, sign and date record of cleaning.		

(Adapted from guidance published by Community Infection Prevention and Control, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, and published in May 2020.)

References

1. **COVID-19: infection prevention and control dental appendix -**
Management of care environment/equipment section on pages 8-9:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928034/COVID-19_Infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_Dental_appendix.pdf
2. **COVID-19: Guidance for the remobilisation of services within health and care settings Infection prevention and control recommendations -**
Section 9.3.1 and 9.3.2
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910885/COVID-19_Infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_FINAL_PDF_20082020.pdf