



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

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Consideration of CDC and COVID-19 Guidelines on Cleaning & Disinfecting

Facilities Services is aware of the jointly developed guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on facility cleaning and disinfecting procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Throughout the crisis, all of Facilities Services led by Building Services has monitored and adopted evolving CDC recommendations.

For higher education, the CDC specifically recommends routine disinfecting and cleaning of surfaces and objects that are frequently touched using the cleaners typically used according to the directions on the label. The CDC sites that most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.

Facilities Services has operated in accordance to CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting since 2012. Employees are trained on reading cleaner/disinfectant labels and following manufacturer instructions for maximum effectiveness. They're also trained on the types of chemicals used in each cleaner/disinfectant across campus prior to use and are well versed in which products to use on all surfaces. Building Services uses quaternary cleaner and healthcare grade disinfectants on a daily basis. These products include, but are not limited to: HDQ Neutral, NABC, Clorox Total 360 solution, Clorox Wipes, Foamy Q & A, TriBase, and Clean by Proxy. Surfaces are thoroughly cleaned before disinfection to ensure that germs are not hidden from the disinfectant when it's applied. These are the same protocols the CDC recommends to combat COVID-19.

The disinfection properties last until the area is used again. However, once anyone uses the area, it has been compromised and germs will return. The EPA does not recognize any residual germ killing properties for disinfectants after they dry. This is exactly why Facilities Services is cleaning common areas such as hand rails and other high touch points as often as possible. For instance, touch points in the Student Union are cleaned and disinfected a minimum of 6 times daily. As high traffic areas are pinpointed, those spaces will receive extra attention as well.

To address concerns in several of our known high traffic areas, Facilities Services has partnered with Belfor to utilize their BIOPROTECT™ RTU Antimicrobial Surface Protectant for longer lasting protection between regular cleanings. BIOPROTECT™ RTU is an EPA-registered, water-based formula that forms an antimicrobial shield which provides persistent, continuous, antimicrobial protection against a broad range of microbes even after the product has dried. All classrooms, instructional labs without sensitive equipment, Libraries (Hodges, Law, Pendergrass), and the Student Union have been treated with BIOPROTECT™ RTU. A second treatment is scheduled for October.

All of these protocols have been continued and re-emphasized as part of Facilities Services/Building Services insuring campus health and safety during the COVID-19 crisis. Building Services has conducted regular additional training in these protocols during the pandemic.

In 2018, UT Facilities Services introduced the Clorox Total 360 Cleaning system which hydrostatically charges the disinfecting solution to cover all hard and soft surfaces and kills 99.9% of bacteria on hard surfaces in 5 seconds and kills organisms responsible for many viral illnesses within 2 minutes or less. To further enhance disinfecting, Building Services supplements with Clorox wipes to ensure that common touch points (door knobs, phones, keyboards, elevator buttons, etc.) are receiving special attention.

While cleaning and disinfecting, all Building Services employees are required to wear proper PPE according to CDC recommendations. This includes but is not limited to: safety glasses, face mask/cloth covering, and gloves. Tyvek suits are worn when a suspected positive case has been on campus. Building Services employees have received extensive training related to donning and removing PPE as well as proper hand hygiene.

In addition, Building Services has implemented a “Total Cleaning” program and service shuttle that allows custodial staff to offer top quality service to our customers by providing professional hard floor and carpet care maintenance, restroom cleaning and disinfection, waste and recycling removal, and detailed cleaning of classrooms, public spaces and offices on a planned and routine basis. This model hinges on communication with customers and accountability of Building Services staff to offer service on time as scheduled while engaging and educating our campus community on their role in maintaining common office and personal space and participating in recycling and sustainability initiatives. Under this model, public and common areas are “Total Cleaned” daily with private areas such as offices and cubicles “Total Cleaned” once per week. This allows our team to maximize employee effectiveness in areas that need it most. “Total Cleaning” utilizes the same supplies, equipment and work instruction previously detailed in this document to perform cleaning and disinfection.

In the event that an area is contaminated on campus, Facilities Services will close off any affected spaces, increase ventilation and wait the CDC and Health designated appropriate amount of time to clean according to all COVID-19 protocols and guidance. Special care is used for PPE, all areas are cleaned and disinfected with special attention placed on frequently touched surfaces and the room is then reopened after the disinfectant products have had adequate time to kill any germs/bacteria. There are exceptions to this procedure. Certain lab spaces and spaces that are used solely by the tested individual may be isolated for an extended period of time before cleaning/disinfecting as requested.

Facilities Services will continue to stay abreast of changing CDC and EPA guidance and will make adjustments where possible within the capabilities of the systems on campus.