Procedures for Disinfection of Infectious Fabrics from COVID-19 Care Units¹,²,³,⁴

Standard infection prevention control practices should be followed at all times. These include:

- Hand hygiene
- Using personal protective equipment (e.g., water-resistant apron, gloves, masks, eyewear)
- Safe handling of sharps and infectious waste
- Disinfecting instruments and devices used on the patient
- Disinfecting linen and cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces

DISINFECTION PROCEDURES FOR INFECTIOUS FABRICS FROM SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED PATIENTS

1. Infectious fabrics
   - Clothes, bed sheets, bed covers, and pillowcases used by patients
   - Ward-area bed curtains
   - Reusable personal protective equipment (PPE) made of fabric
   - Floor towels used for environmental cleaning

2. Collection methods
   - First, pack the fabrics into a disposable, water-soluble plastic bag and seal the bag with matching cable ties.
   - Then, pack this bag into another plastic bag and seal the bag with cable ties in a gooseneck fashion.
   - Finally, pack the plastic bag into a yellow fabric bag and seal the bag with cable ties.
   - Attach a special infection label and the department name. Send the bag to the laundry room.

3. Storage and washing
   - Infectious fabrics should be separated from other infectious fabrics (non-COVID-19) and washed in a dedicated washing machine.
   - Wash and disinfect these fabrics with chlorine-containing disinfectant at 90 °C for at least 30 minutes.

4. Disinfection of transport tools
   - Special transport tools should be used specifically for transporting infectious fabrics.
   - The tools shall be disinfected immediately each time after being used for transporting infectious fabrics.
   - The transport tools should be wiped with chlorine-containing disinfectant (with 1,000 mg/L active chlorine). Leave disinfectant for 30 minutes before wiping the tools with clean water.

NB: Any reusable PPE must be properly cleaned, decontaminated, and maintained after and between uses. Facilities should have policies and procedures describing a recommended sequence for safely donning and doffing PPE.²

REFERENCES


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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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